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BRIDGMAN SENDS GRADS OFF IN STYLE

Local, A3

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Four Winds reviewing plan to reopen

Other tribal casinos across state announce intentions to open soon

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

NEW BUFFALO — Despite a couple Michigan casinos announcing their intention to reopen next month, there are no set plans yet for the three Four Winds Casinos in Southwest Michigan to reopen.

In a statement released by the Pokagon Gaming Authority, the sovereign organization is still reviewing plans for reopening, after shutting down for nearly three months because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Pokagon Gaming Authority would like to thank everyone for their patience and continued support during the closure of our Four Winds Casinos," the statement read. "We are working on our plans for reopening with the Pokagon Gaming Commission and great care is being taken to ensure that we resume our operations in a manner that will not only protect the health and safety of our guests and employees, but also provide an enjoyable entertainment experience."

The Pokagon Gaming Authority said it plans to release several details, along with an opening date, "very soon."

There were also reports earlier this week that Four Winds Casinos were targeting a mid-June opening date for its South Bend location. However, it is still unknown when that casino will reopen.

Several tribal casinos in Michigan have announced their intentions to open before Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's stay-at-home order expires on June 12.

Among those in the state planning to open soon includes Bay Mills Resort and Casino in Brimley, Kings Club Casino in Bay Mills Township, Gun Lake Casino in Wayland, FireKeepers Casino in Emmett Township, Soaring Eagle Casino in Mount Pleasant and Saganing Eagles Landing Casino in Standish.

The tribal casinos voluntarily closed to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Michigan. But as sovereign tribal entities, they are not bound by Whitmer's stay-home order.

Each tribe has set different procedures to reopen, which are being overseen by the tribal gaming commissions.

Four Winds Casinos announced in mid-March that it was closing all four of its casino locations through the rest of that month. That decision was carried over into April and May.

This also led to Four Winds rescheduling several concerts that were postponed at the Silver Creek Event Center.

Contact: twittkowski@TheHP.com, 932-0358, Twitter: @Tony Wittkowski

PEACEFUL SETTING

Don Campbell / HP staff

A man enjoys a morning of reading along Lions Park Beach in St. Joseph on Wednesday.

Have a dispute? MI Resolve could be the way forward

Free online service could help people avoid court system

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — People with conflicts in Southwest Michigan have a new way to virtually find resolution through MI Resolve, offered by Citizens Mediation Services in St. Joseph.

"That allows people who have a dispute to be able to go online and resolve that dispute," said Jenny Miner, executive director at Citizens Mediation Services, during the Berrien County ALPACT meeting Tuesday.

The free online program launched Tuesday at her center for the counties of Berrien, Branch, Cass, St. Joseph, Van Buren and Kalamazoo.

"It does not have to be a court-ordered dispute. It could be any dispute that you have with a neighbor, with a landlord-tenant situation. It can be any kind of general civil case," Miner said of the program, which is sponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court Office of Dispute Resolution.

More information can be found at www.citizensmediation.org or by contacting Miner by calling 982-7898, or by emailing jenny@citizensmediation.org.

A video explaining how MI Resolve works can be found at courts.mi.gov/HowToMIResolve.

"Hopefully, this will be another way to bring peace

See **MI RESOLVE**, page A10

False alarm: Emergency siren inadvertently sounds off for short time

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — The emergency siren Berrien County residents may have heard for a brief time Wednesday morning was a false alarm.

The siren was inadvertently sounded for about 10-15 seconds during what was intended to be a routine silent testing of the system, said Berrien County Sheriff's Capt. Rockey Adams, commanding officer of the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division.

The siren, maintained by Cook Nuclear Plant and operated by the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, is tested aloud the first Saturday of every month, with the alarm sounding for about one minute. However, Adams said, the county routinely checks the system weekly using a silent electrical pulse.

During Wednesday's weekly test, county operators inadvertently activated the audible alarm, causing the siren to sound for 10-15 seconds before the audible alarm was deactivated.

"Maintaining this system is a partnership between our team and the public," Adams said. "While the inadvertent sounding was unfortunate, I am encouraged that people were paying attention to the system and appreciate that they called to let us know they heard (the alarm)," Adams said.

The audible tests conducted the first Saturday of every month typically last about one minute. The alarms would sound for three to five minutes or longer in the event of a true emergency, he said. Further, when the sirens sound for a real emergency, the Emergency Alert System (EAS) is also activated, with a message broadcast by local media to let the community know and give instructions.

Emergency messages also are transmitted through Wireless Emergency Alerts to capable cellular devices, and the county's B-WARN! system would be activated.

Resident can sign up for

See **SIREN**, page A10

U.S. death toll from coronavirus pandemic surges past 100,000 people

By CARLA K. JOHNSON, SUSAN HAIGH and LISA MARIE PANE
Associated Press

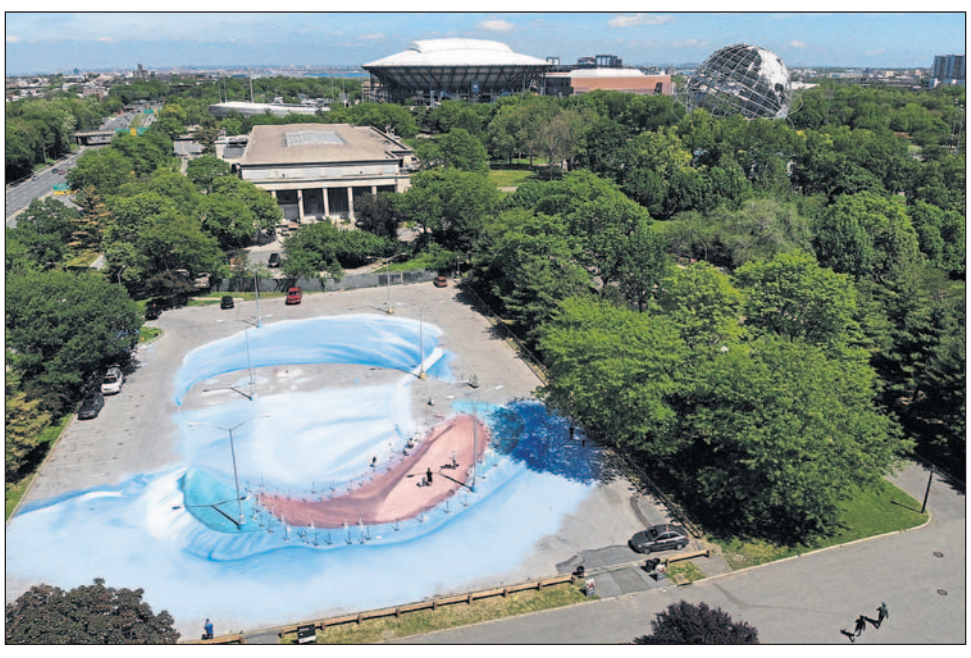
HARTFORD, Conn. — The U.S. surpassed a jarring milestone Wednesday in the coronavirus pandemic: 100,000 deaths.

That number is the best estimate and most assuredly an undercount. But it represents the stark reality that more Americans have died from the virus than from the Vietnam and Korean wars combined.

"It's a striking reminder of how dangerous this virus can be," said Josh Michaud, associate director of global health policy with the Kaiser Family Foundation in Washington.

The once-unthinkable toll appears to be just the beginning of untold misery in the months ahead as Las Vegas casinos and Walt Disney World make plans to reopen, crowds of unmasked Americans swarm beaches and public health officials predict a resurgence by fall.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, issued a stern warning after watching video of Memorial Day crowds gathered at a pool party in Missouri.



Seth Wenig / AP

Artist Jorge Rodriguez-Gerada works on a 20,000-square-foot mural of a healthcare worker near the Queens Museum, back left, and the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, back center, in the Queens borough of New York on Wednesday. The mural is to honor those who lost their lives during the coronavirus pandemic, especially minority healthcare workers. The portrait was inspired by Dr. Ydelfonso Decoo, an immigrant doctor who died from coronavirus complications while serving hard-hit communities of color.

"We have a situation in which you see that type of crowding with no mask and people interacting. That's not prudent, and that's inviting a situation that could get out of control," he said during an interview Wednesday on CNN. "Don't start leapfrogging some of the recommendations in the guidelines because that's really tempting fate and asking for trouble."

Worldwide, the virus has

See **DEATH TOLL**, page A10

The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

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Tomorrow's Weather

High 62 Low 54

6 50645 49085 0

Will mail-in voting turn Election Day into Election Week?

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI
Associated Press

Matt Rourke / AP
A voter drops off their mail-in ballot prior to the primary election in Willow Grove, Pa., on Wednesday.

A shift to mail voting is increasing the chances that Americans will not know the winner of November's presidential race on election night, a scenario that is fueling worries about whether President Donald Trump will use the delay to sow doubts about the results.

State election officials in some key battleground states have recently warned that it may take days to count what they expect will be a surge of ballots sent by mail out of concern for safety amid the pandemic. In an election as close as 2016's, a delayed tally in key states could keep news organizations from calling a winner.

"It may be several days before we know the outcome of the election," Jocelyn Benson, Michigan's Democratic secretary of state, said in an interview. "We have to prepare for that now and accept that reality."

Ohio's Republican secretary of state, Frank LaRose, pleaded for "patience" from the public. "We've gotten accustomed to this idea that by the middle of the evening of election night, we're going to know all the results," LaRose said Wednesday at a forum on voting hosted by the Bipartisan Policy Center. "Election night reporting may take a little longer" this year, he warned.

Delayed results are common in a few states where elections are already conducted largely by mail. But a presidential election hasn't been left in limbo since 2000, when ballot irregularities in Florida led to weeks of chaos and court fights.

For some election experts and Democrats, the prospect of similar uncertainty is especially worrisome this year, as Trump disparages mail-in voting as fraudulent and has claimed without evidence that widespread mail balloting will lead to a "rigged" election.

"It's very problematic," said Rick Hasen, a University of California-Irvine law professor. "There is already so much anxiety about this election because of the high levels of polarization and misinformation."

Hasen is among the experts who have been studying the strains on the U.S. electoral system during the pandemic. He recently convened a bipartisan group of academics to recommend safeguards for a disputed election. Some members have gamed out dramatic scenarios like state legislatures or governors refusing to seat electors, or a candidate refusing to cede power.

Meanwhile, some Democratic operatives, lawyers and even the presumptive presidential nominee have grown increasingly vocal with their concerns that Trump will try to meddle in the election. Joe Biden recently said he thinks Trump may use his office to intervene: "Mark my words, I think he is going to try to kick back the election somehow, come up with some rationale why it can't be held."

Trump campaign spokesman Ken Farnaso called the accusation "another unsubstantiated creation of the liberal conspiracy theory machine."

Trump said last year in an interview that he would accept the results of the 2020 election. Since then, however, the coronavirus has dramatically changed how Americans vote.

As voters look for a safer alternative to in-person voting, election officials from both parties have promoted mail-in and absentee voting options, and requests for mail ballots have surged in the primaries. Many states expect to be scrambling to process millions more in November.

While each state runs its own process, those mail ballots can take longer to count. In some states, the ballots can be accepted several days after Election Day, as long as they are postmarked before polls closed. And while some states count the ballots as they come in, others – notably the critical battlegrounds of Michigan and Pennsylvania – have laws that forbid processing mail ballots until Election Day, guaranteeing the count will extend well past that night.

That doesn't mean The Associated Press and other news organizations won't call a winner. The AP regularly calls races before the official vote count is complete, using models based on partial results, past races and extensive polling.

But in particularly tight contests, the AP and other news organizations may hold off on declaring a winner. That could lead to a national roller coaster ride of shifting results.

In Arizona in 2018, for example, Republican Martha McSally was narrowly winning the initial tally of in-person votes and mail ballots that had arrived days before Election Day. More than a week later, after election officials were able to tally all the mail votes that arrived on Election Day, Democrat Kyrsten Sinema won the senatorial race by more than 2 percentage points. Arizona changed its procedures to try to speed up the vote count this year.

In Michigan and Pennsylvania, two states that helped hand Trump his 2016 victory, Democrats have pushed to relax the laws forbidding them from processing ballots before Election Day but faced GOP resistance.

In Michigan, GOP leaders had argued it would be improper to handle ballots before Election Day. But on Wednesday, the state's GOP-controlled Senate signaled a shift, advancing a bill that would allow the processing of absentee ballots the day before Election Day. Benson said even if the bill passes, she expects a slow count in November.

"It's certainly going to be a challenge," Benson said.

In Pennsylvania, only 4.6 percent of the state's voters voted either early or by mail in 2016. But now both parties are urging voters to send in mail ballots for next week's primary elections, and officials are overwhelmed by absentee ballot requests.

Philadelphia says it won't even begin to count mail ballots until after the end of primary day, June 2. Forrest K. Lehman, elections director in Lycoming County in central Pennsylvania, warned: "In terms of November, if they don't let us start canvassing sooner than the day of the election, there's no way anyone can responsibly call Pennsylvania on election night."

Another factor that could delay the count is Democrats' push to require states to accept mail ballots postmarked on Election Day. Democrats have filed more than a dozen lawsuits demanding that standard and note that the U.S. Supreme Court required it for Wisconsin's April 7 election.

But, because of that requirement, Wisconsin couldn't release results from its election until April 13.

LOTTERIES

Wednesday drawings

Michigan
Classic Lotto 47
10-12-16-17-22-46
Poker Lotto
5C-3D-7D-7S-8S
Midday Daily 3
8-2-2
Midday Daily 4
1-9-7-6
Daily 3
2-3-3
Daily 4
6-5-9-9
Fantasy 5
08-10-32-34-35
Keno
01-14-15-16-21-24-25-28-29-31-39-45-55-56-57-62-65-69-71-74-76-80
Mega Millions jackpot
$336 million
Powerball jackpot
$114 million

Tuesday drawings

Michigan
Mega Millions
34-52-58-59-62, Mega Ball: 4, Megaplier: 3
Indiana
Cash 5
10-11-29-32-39
Cash4Life
10-13-21-31-41, Cash Ball: 3
Quick Draw Midday
08-24-27-28-29-37-38-42-43-44-45-47-52-53-65-67-71-73-76-80, BE: 52
Daily Three-Midday
4-2-7, SB: 5
Daily Three-Evening
1-7-9, SB: 0
Daily Four-Midday
6-9-7-2, SB: 5
Daily Four-Evening
8-5-8-7, SB: 0
Quick Draw Evening
09-10-20-21-24-32-36-38-43-44-46-47-55-56-63-64-66-73-74-77, BE: 73
Illinois
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
06-11-17-24-30
Pick Three-Midday
9-6-4, Fireball: 9
Pick Three-Evening
1-1-6, Fireball: 8
Pick Four-Midday
4-5-0-5, Fireball: 5
Pick Four-Evening
3-0-1-5, Fireball: 8
Lucky Day Lotto
05-12-24-44-45

– The Associated Press

Twitter fact-checks Trump; he threatens new regulations or shutdown

By ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

Evan Vucci / AP
President Donald Trump answers questions from reporters during an event on protecting seniors with diabetes in the Rose Garden White House in Washington on Tuesday.

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump, the historically prolific tweeter of political barbs and blasts, threatened social media companies with new regulation or even shuttering on Wednesday after Twitter added fact checks to two of his tweets. He turned to his Twitter account – where else? – to tweet his threats.

The president can't unilaterally regulate or close the companies, and any effort would likely require action by Congress. His administration has shelved a proposed executive order empowering the Federal Communications Commission to regulate technology companies, citing concerns it wouldn't pass legal muster. But that didn't stop Trump from angrily issuing strong warnings.

Tech giants "silence conservative voices," he claimed on Twitter early Wednesday. "We will strongly regulate, or close them down, before we can ever allow this to happen." Later, also on Twitter, he threatened, "Big Action to follow."

Press secretary Kayleigh McEnany told reporters that Trump would sign an executive order relating to social media companies but provided no further details. White House strategic communications director Alyssa Farah said Trump would sign it Thursday.

In his tweet, he repeated his unsubstantiated claim – which sparked his latest showdown with Silicon Valley – that expanding mail-in voting "would be a free for all on cheating, forgery and the theft of Ballots."

Twitter's decision to mark the president's tweets regarding mail-in balloting came as the president was sparking another social media firestorm, continuing to stoke a debunked conspiracy theory accusing MSNBC host Joe Scarborough of killing a former staffer. Prominent Republicans, including Rep. Liz Cheney and Sen. Mitt Romney, urged Trump to drop the attack – which has not been marked with a fact check by the social media company.

Trump and his campaign had lashed out at the company Tuesday after Twitter added a warning phrase to two Trump tweets that called mail-in ballots "fraudulent" and predicted that "mail boxes will be robbed," among other things. Under the tweets, there is now a link reading "Get the facts about mail-in ballots" that guides users to a Twitter "moments" page with fact checks and news stories about Trump's unsubstantiated claims.

Trump replied on Twitter, accusing the platform of "interfering in the 2020 Presidential Election" and insisting that "as president, I will not allow this to happen." His 2020 campaign manager, Brad Parscale, said Twitter's "clear political bias" had led the campaign to pull "all our advertising from Twitter months ago." Twitter has banned all political advertising since last November.

Trump did not explain his threat Wednesday, and the call to expand regulation appeared to fly in the face of long-held conservative principles on deregulation.

Trump and his allies have long accused the tech giants in liberal-leaning Silicon Valley of targeting conservatives on social media by fact-checking them or removing their posts. The president's critics, meanwhile, have scolded the platforms for allowing him to put forth false or misleading information that could confuse voters.

Some Trump allies have questioned whether platforms like Twitter and Facebook should continue to enjoy liability protections as "platforms" under federal law – or be treated more like publishers, which can face lawsuits over content.

The protections have been credited with allowing the unfettered growth of the internet for more than two decades, but now some Trump allies are advocating that social media companies face more scrutiny.

Twitter's first-ever use of a label, on Trump's tweets comes as platforms gear up to combat misinformation around the U.S. presidential election. Twitter, as well as Facebook, have begun rolling out dozens of new rules to avoid a repeat of the false postings about the candidates and the voting process that marred the 2016 election.

The advent of the coronavirus pandemic has further escalated the platforms' response, leading them to take actions against politicians – a move they've long resisted – who make misleading claims about the virus.

Last month, Twitter began a "Get the Facts" label to direct social media users to news articles from trusted outlets next to tweets containing misleading or disputed information about the virus. Company leaders said at the time that the new labels could be applied to anyone on Twitter, and that it was considering using them on other topics.

Twitter has said it will decide internally when to use a label, and on which tweets, and that it will draw from information curated from news outlets.

Former federal judge Michael McConnell, who now directs Stanford Law School's Constitutional Law Center, said Trump lacks the legal power to back up his threat. "He has no such authority," McConnell said in an email. "He is just venting."

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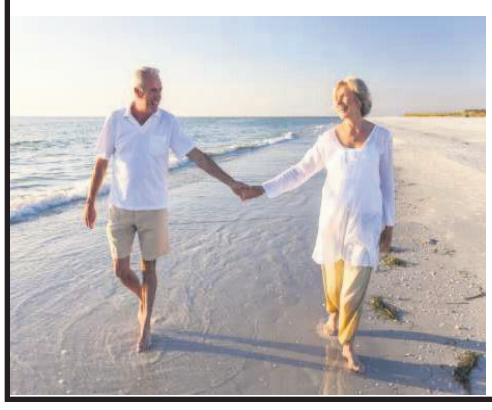
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hp LOCAL & STATE

United Way sets up fund to help schools with pandemic

By HP STAFF

ST. JOSEPH — Every school district in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties is now eligible for funds to help them with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The United Way of Southwest Michigan (UWSM) announced that it is making $150,000 available this week. It is the largest single one-time investment it has made in over a decade.

The Education Support Fund is available to all of the 36 districts in the three-county region. Accessing the funds is not a competitive process, according to a UWSM news release.

"We know that funding cuts to education are coming, and neither United Way nor any other community organization can fill that gap, but it's our hope that the flexibility the schools have with these dollars can help ease some of the burden that they may be experiencing because of the crisis," said Anna Murphy, president and CEO of UWSM, in the news release.

Funding can be used for whatever each district deems necessary or helpful, and could include literacy or other educational supports, social/emotional supports, staff training, or technology capacity.

"COVID-19 has no doubt exacerbated the challenges that schools and students already faced, in addition to creating new ones," Murphy said.

Projects do not have to exclusively serve economically disadvantaged students, but the $150,000 has been split equitably between each district, based on the number of economically disadvantaged students in each district, according to the release.

Each district will be told its allocation, and must complete a simple application in order to access the money. If some districts choose not to participate, their portion will be divided equitably between the districts that did take advantage of the fund. The districts have been notified of the application process.

The deadline for schools to request funding is June 16. Funding will be released by June 19.

All funds must be used by Dec. 31, 2020, and a final report outlining the results of the projects will be due by Jan. 30, 2021.

IN GOOD STANDING

Don Campbell / HP staff

A paddleboarder makes his way past beachgoers along Tiscornia Beach in St. Joseph on Tuesday afternoon.

BRIDGMAN SCHOOLS

District goes the extra mile for seniors

Series of events carried out during their final week

By DAVE JOHNSON
For The Herald-Palladium

BRIDGMAN — The Bridgman High School class of 2020 was publicly recognized, celebrated, and in a way immortalized recently during the last week of a very unusual senior year.

Banners depicting the 48 members of the class were revealed during a Saturday morning, May 16, tour of downtown Bridgman that was live-streamed by Superintendent Shane Peters from the bed of a pick-up truck. Also along for the ride were High School Principal Gerald Heath, plus "Buzz," the Bee mascot.

The banners were installed along the Lake Street corridor from Red Arrow Highway to the intersection of Church and Lake streets the night before by the Bridgman City DPW workers.

A permanent reminder of the class's legacy was literally unveiled on the evening of May 20 in the center of a "Class of 2020 square" in the "grand entryway" area of the district's Outdoor Athletic Complex (which includes the football field and track). Heath and Buzz did the honors, while Peters live-streamed the community's first look at the inscribed granite marker described as a special gift to Bridgman's class of 2020.

Dave Johnson / For The Herald-Palladium

"Buzz" the Bee mascot and Bridgman High School Principal Gerald Heath last week unveil the granite marker at the entrance to the district's Outdoor Athletic Complex honoring the class of 2020.

Bridgman High School teacher Cheri Hartzler, left, takes a selfie photo with senior Mikaela Owen after making a special delivery on May 22 as part of the district's effort to recognize a class graduating during a global pandemic.

"You've been a special group here at Bridgman and you left a big imprint not only on this building and this school but this entire district. So we want to make sure you are going to be an imprint on this district for a long time to come," Heath said during the live-stream event.

"Now you'll have an imprint for life, and when you guys are trying to tell your children … what this time was like, and what was it like for you to be a senior during this time."

He then read the inscription, which reads in part: "The Bridgman Class of 2020 will be remembered with great pride and fondness by the Bridgman community who celebrated your achievements, shared your disappointments, was humbled by your strength, and encouraged by your tenacity. ... To the Class of 2020, you are evidence that the strength of our school is our community and the strength of our community is our school."

Peters said "a big thank you goes out to the Heritage Brick and Marble Company" for creating the solid granite plaque, and the Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence for helping to make the project possible.

"Linda Kuhn and Leslie Kroeze were instrumental in this project. The Bridgman Public Schools is so proud of Starbuck's Landscaping (for spending) all day yesterday in the rain putting this into the ground for us," he said.

Individual bricks representing members of the senior class were placed around the class of 2020 marker (there are hundreds of inscribed bricks in the entry area). Peters said new bricks for the Square of 2020 can be ordered from the Bridgman Foundation for Educational Excellence website.

Also inscribed on the marker are all the names of the graduating class.

Also, on the morning of May 22 a procession of Bridgman staff members made special deliveries to those seniors.

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Prices surge but home sales plummet

Number of homes sold tumbles 35 percent compared to a year ago

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — The full effects of the COVID-19 pandemic took a toll on the Southwest Michigan housing market in April.

The number of houses sold dropped by 35 percent, while the total dollar volume of sales fell 34 percent.

"After five years of steady gains in the number of houses sold in April above 224 houses, this past month, there were only 194 houses sold," said Alan Jeffries, association executive of the Southwestern Michigan Association of Realtors. "In April 2019, there were 297 houses sold, which was the peak year in our year-over-year comparison back to 2006."

Year-to-date, the number of houses sold fell to 809 from 941 sold in April 2019, also the peak number in the year-over-year comparison.

Jeffries said the last time sales were at this level was in April 2015.

The homes that sold had the highest average and median selling prices for the month of April and year-to-date since 2006.

The average selling price in April 2020 was $220,208 compared to $218,607 in April 2019 – up less than 1 percent. Year-to-date, the average selling price was up 6 percent.

The median selling price in April 2020 increased 9 percent, to $186,000, from $170,000 in April 2019. Year-to-date, the median selling price jumped 14 percent.

Comparing April to March, the number of houses sold fell 20 percent. The average selling price was down less than 1 percent.

With fewer houses sold, even at record setting prices, the total dollar volume fell 34 percent in April ($42,720,427 vs. $64,926,322).

The inventory of houses for sale also declined 25 percent from April 2019. This level gave the market a 4.5-month supply of houses for buyers.

Locally, the mortgage rate average was 3.21, down from 3.63 in March. Last year in April, the rate was 4.32. Nationally, the Freddie Mac mortgage rate in April was 3.23, down slightly from 3.5 in March for a 30-year conventional mortgage.

Across the country

According to the National Association of Realtors, existing-home sales dropped dramatically in April, continuing what is now a two-month skid in sales brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. Each of the four major regions experienced a decline in month-over-month and year-over-year sales, with the West seeing the greatest dip in both categories.

Total existing-home sales dropped 17.8 percent from March to a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of 4.33 million in April. Overall, sales decreased year-over-year, down 17.2 percent from a year ago.

"The economic lockdowns – occurring from mid-March through April in most states – have temporarily disrupted home sales," said Lawrence Yun, NAR's chief economist. "But the listings that are on the market are still attracting buyers and boosting home prices."

April's existing-home sales are the lowest level of sales since July 2010 and the largest month-over-month drop since July 2010.

Nationally, the total housing inventory at the end of April totaled 1.47 million units, down 1.3 percent from March, and down 19.7 percent from one year ago. Unsold inventory sits at a 4.1-month supply at the current sales pace, up from 3.4 months in March and down from the 4.2-month figure recorded in April 2019.

Regionally, as was the case for the month prior, April sales decreased in every region from the previous month's levels. Median home prices in each region grew from one year ago, with the Northeast and Midwest regions showing the strongest price gains.

Existing-home sales decreased 12 percent in the Midwest to an annual rate of 1.10 million, down 8.3 percent from a year ago. The median price in the Midwest was $229,200, a 9.3 percent increase from April 2019.

The median existing-home price for all housing types in April was $286,800, up 7.4 percent from April 2019, as prices increased in every region. April's national price increase marks 98 straight months of year-over-year gains.

"Record-low mortgage rates are likely to remain in place for the rest of the year, and will be the key factor driving housing demand as state economies steadily reopen," Yun said. "Still, more listings and increased home construction will be needed to tame price growth."

Contact: twittkowski@TheHP.com, 932-0358, Twitter: @Tony Wittkowski

Berrien County adds 5 COVID-19 cases Wednesday, 28 recoveries

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

While Berrien County hit 600 cumulative COVID-19 cases Wednesday, it also hit 434 recoveries.

Berrien County added 28 recoveries Wednesday and just five new COVID-19 cases.

The Berrien County Health Department did report another COVID-19 death Wednesday, a man in his 70s who had underlying conditions. This brings the county's death toll to 48.

With the deaths and recoveries subtracted, there are now about 118 active COVID-19 cases in Berrien County, 24 less than Tuesday and 55 less than last Wednesday. There are still 188 presumed cases.

Spectrum Health Lakeland was treating 13 COVID-19 patients as of Wednesday morning, with four of those in the intensive care unit. That's two less than were hospitalized on Tuesday.

Van Buren County added five cases on Wednesday, bringing the county's cumulative case total to 131. The county remains at six deaths and had 41 recoveries as of last Friday.

Cass County added one case Wednesday, bringing the county's cumulative case total to 79. The county remains at two deaths and had 24 recoveries as of last Friday.

More information

■ To get a diagnostic COVID-19 test, call your doctor to arrange a test or contact a testing site: Spectrum Health Lakeland in St. Joseph, 833-559-0659; InterCare in Benton Harbor and Bangor, 855-869-6900; Rite Aid in Bridgman, www.riteaid.com; Walmart in Benton Township, www.MyQuestCOVIDTest.com; Bronson Lakeview Family Care in Paw Paw, 341-7788; or Ascension Lee Medical Group in Dowagiac, 782-1500.

■ To receive an antibody test from Spectrum Health Lakeland, first call your doctor, then set up an appointment by calling 556-2810.

■ To find or donate a cloth face covering in Van Buren or Cass counties, visit https://vbcassdhd.org/fabric-face-covering.

■ To volunteer in Berrien, Cass or Van Buren county, visit http://volunteer.uwsm.org.

■ To donate to the Southwest Michigan Cares Fund, which will help local COVID-19 response in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties, visit www.southwestmichigancares.org.

■ To see resources, guidelines and tools for how Berrien County plans to reopen businesses safely, read the Berrien ReOpens plan at https://berrienreopens.org.

■ For local health information and COVID-19 data for Berrien County, visit www.bchdmi.org/1643/Coronavirus-Disease-COVID-19.

■ For local health information and COVID-19 data for Van Buren and Cass counties, visit https://vbcassdhd.org/covid-19.

Contact: anewman@TheHP.com, 932-0357, Twitter: @HPANewman

The Herald-Palladium

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Desk: 1-855-317-4292
Hours: Monday - Friday 8am-4pm EST
Saturday & Sunday 8am-11am EST

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LEGALS

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EMPLOYMENT

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LaPorte, IN
Armored Guard
Now hiring additional messengers for growing local company. Looking for professionals with clean driving record and valid firearms permit or able to pass requirements to obtain one. Please send resumes to hiring@securityincorporated.com

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GENERAL HELP

Stevensville, MI

POOL GUYS

$20/Hour - Crew Leaders
$14/Hour - Helpers
Driver's License Required
Sensationalhottubs@att.net

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

New Buffalo, MI
Dwell Vacations seeks an experienced, responsible, and results-oriented full-time Property Maintenance Manager to take care of our 5 luxury vacation rental homes in New Buffalo/Union Pier. At least 5 years of finish carpentry experience focused on high-end construction is preferred. We hope to fill this position ASAP & offer a competitive salary based on experience.

To apply, please email reservations@dwell-vacations.com. Serious inquiries only. No phone calls, please.

FINANCIAL

GARAGE /ESTATE SALES

GARAGE/ESTATE SALES

Lakeside, MI
Clean out the basement sale!
14474 Lakeshore Rd
Saturday, May 30th
Sunday, May 31th
12pm to 4pm
Household items, Antiques, and LOTS MORE!!
**MUST wear mask & Social distancing will be implemented

MERCHANDISE

MUSICAL MERCHANDISE

Saint Joseph, MI
Used Story & Clark upright piano
$500.00
269-519-8831

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

experience.

To apply, please email reservations@dwell-vacations.com. Serious inquiries only. No phone calls, please.

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MUSICAL MERCHANDISE

Saint Joseph, MI
Used Story & Clark upright piano
$500.00
269-519-8831

MISC. ITEMS FOR SALE

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The Phonics Learning Game
$75
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PETS

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New Buffalo, MI
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For Rent
$2,000 for Season
Includes all Amenities
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MOTORCYCLES WANTED

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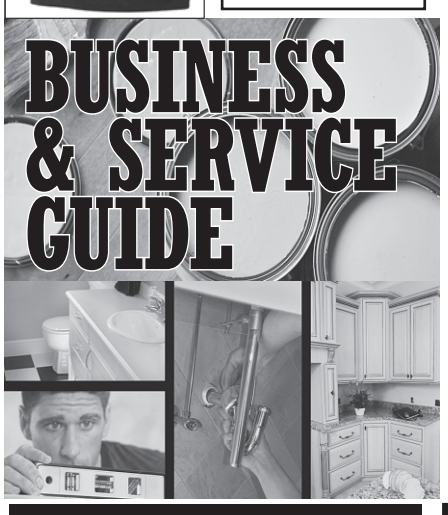
BUSINESS & SERVICE GUIDE



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TRIM YOUR TREES BEFORE THE LEAVES!

RESERVE THIS SPACE TODAY!

HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

THURSDAY, MAY 28

Hold on to what you have and look for new ways to use your skills, possessions and assets to get ahead. Don't trust or depend on outside help, and question offers and motives when dealing with others. Persistence and hard work will lead to success.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Stick close to home and take care of personal responsibilities. Utilize your space to allow you to work on plans or projects on your to-do list.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) A change will create tension with an opponent. Search for an alternative that will help persuade others to see things your way. Charm and diplomacy will help.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Consider what you want as you explore the best way to achieve your objective. Look for guidelines that will ensure you do everything by the book. Romance is on the rise.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Don't worry about what others do. Stick to the truth, take care of responsibilities and make changes that will be beneficial. A younger or older relative will offer unexpected insight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Reconnect with someone from your past through social media. What you discover will help you let go of bygone times and address what you want to do next.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Handle a sensitive issue with diplomacy. Everyone is entitled to his or her opinion. Offer others the same freedom you want in return. Do your own thing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Be open about the way you feel and what your expectations are regarding a partnership or joint venture. Refuse to let an outsider interfere in your personal life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) A detailed look at a situation or personal documents will reveal what you need to do next. Concentrate on individual improvement and how you present your ideas and image to others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Share your plans with someone you want to spend more time with, and you'll find out where you stand. A commitment will help you move forward with confidence.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Sit tight, say little and observe a lot. You need to gather information if you want to stay in control of a murky situation. Discipline and fair play will be required.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Enlist the help of others. Get organized and update time-sensitive documents and pending matters. Make emotional and physical improvements. A proper diet and a challenging fitness program are encouraged.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Emotions will get you in trouble. Before you make a rash decision or drastic change, consider why you are doing so and whether there is a better way to proceed.

Responding to employment ads that contain a Herald-Palladium box #

No telephone calls please! We will not reveal the name of the box holder.
(A) Reply with your sealed letter Addressed as follows:

Box (# that appears in ad)
c/o the Herald-Palladium
P.O. Box 128
St. Joseph, MI
49085-0128

If you wish to reply to a box number and NOT have your letter sent to certain firms, then: B) attach a note listing which firms are NOT to receive your letter; and (C) send every thing in ANOTHER ENVELOPE addressed as follows:

The Herald-Palladium
Classified Department
P.O. Box 128
St. Joseph, MI
49085-0128

If the advertiser is among the names you don't want to contact, we will destroy your sealed letter.

E-Mail Responses

You may also reply to ads with Herald-Palladium box numbers by e-mail. Do not attach your resume rather type it or copy & paste it directly into your e-mail program. Send your e-mail to: jobs@heraldpalladium.com

If you wish to reply to a box number and NOT have your letter sent to certain firms, then begin your e-mail with any company(s) where you do not wish to apply. Then include the Herald-Palladium box address as shown above.

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To protect our readers, Herald-Palladium policy requires that all companies list their names when placing ads in our publication. Employment advertisers who wish to remain anonymous must rent Herald-Palladium boxes so that we can insure our readers that they are not responding to their current employers or any other company to which they do not wish to apply.

Box Charges

Boxes are reserved for 30 days after last day of ad publication. The charge is:
$10. per box- you pick-up responses.
$15. per box - We fax all responses to you on a daily basis.
$25. per box- We mail responses to you once per week.
When readers respond to your ad via e-mail, we will forward them to you immediately if you provide us with an e-mail address or we will print and handle them in the manner that you request.

The Herald-Palladium

Looking For a New Ride?!

Cruise Through Our Classified Columns TODAY!

SPECIAL ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Doctor urges seniors to carry medical alert device

Seniors snap up new medical alert device that comes with no monthly bills

People don't always do what their doctor says, but when seasoned veteran an emergency room physician, Dr. Philip B. Howren says every senior should have a medical alert device, you better listen up.

"Seniors are just one fall away from being put in a nursing home," Dr. Howren said. "With a medical alert device, seniors are never alone. So it keeps them living independently in their own home. That's why seniors and their family members are snapping up a sleek new medical alert device that comes with no monthly bills ever," he said.

Many seniors refuse to wear old style help buttons because they make them look old. But even worse, those medical alert systems come with monthly bills.

To solve these problems Universal Physicians, a U.S. company went to work to develop a new, modern, state-of-the-art medical alert device. It's called "FastHelp™" and it instantly connects you to free unlimited nationwide help everywhere cell service is available with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills ever.

"This slick new little device is designed to look like the pagers doctors wear every day. Seniors love them, because it actually makes them look important, not old," Dr. Howren said.

FastHelp is expected to hit store shelves later this year. But special newspaper promotional giveaways are slated for seniors in select areas. ■

■ **NO MONTHLY BILLS:** "My wife had an old style help button that came with hefty bills every month and she was embarrassed to wear it because it made her look old," said Frank McDonald, Canton, Ohio. "Now that nearly everyone is sheltered in place, we're so blessed that we both have FastHelp™, the sleek new medical alert device that our grandkids say makes us look 'cool' not old," he said. With FastHelp, seniors never have to worry about being alone and the best part is there are no monthly bills ever.

Seniors born before 1956 get new medical alert device with no monthly bills ever

It's just what seniors have been waiting for; a sleek new medical alert device with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills that instantly connects you to free unlimited nationwide help with just the push of a button for a one-time $149 price tag that's a real steal after today's instant rebate

The phone lines are ringing off the hook.

That's because for seniors born before 1956, it's a deal too good to pass up.

Starting at precisely 8:30am this morning the Pre-Store Release begins for the sleek new medical alert device that comes with the exclusive FastHelp™ One-Touch E 911 Button that instantly connects you to unlimited nationwide help everywhere cell service is available with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills ever.

"It's not like old style monitored help buttons that make you talk to a call center and only work when you're at home and come with hefty bills every month. FastHelp comes with state-of-the-art cellular embedded technology. That means it works at home or anywhere, anytime cell service is available whether you're out watering the garden, driving in a car, at church or even hundreds of miles away on a tour or at a casino. You are never alone. With just a single push of the One-Touch E Button you instantly get connected to free unlimited help nationwide with no monthly bills ever," said Jack Lawrence, Executive Director of Product Development for U.S. based Universal Physicians.

"We've never seen anything like it. Consumers absolutely love the sleek new modern design and most of all, the instant rebate that practically pays for it and no monthly bills ever," Lawrence said.

FastHelp is the sleek new medical alert device with the best of combinations: a quality, high-tech engineered device that's also an extremely great value because there are no monthly bills ever.

Better still, it comes with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills ever – which makes FastHelp a great choice for seniors, students and professionals because it connects to one of the largest nationwide networks everywhere cell service is available for free.

And here's the best part. All those who already have an old style monitored medical alert button can immediately eliminate those monthly bills, which is why Universal Physicians is widely advertising this announcement nationwide.

"So if you've ever felt a medical alert device was too complicated or expensive, you'll want to get FastHelp, the sleek new medical alert device with no monthly bills," said Lawrence.

The medical alert device slugfest was dominated by two main combatants who both offer old style monitored help buttons that come with a hefty bill every month. But now Universal Physicians, the U.S. based heavyweight, just delivered a knockout blow sending the top rated contenders to the mat with the unveiling of FastHelp. It's the sleek new cellular embedded medical alert device that cuts out the middleman by instantly connecting you directly to highly trained 911 operators all across the U.S. There's absolutely nothing to hook-up or install. You don't need a land line and you don't need a cell phone. Everything is done for you.

"FastHelp is a state of the art medical alert device designed to make you look important, not old. Old style monitored help buttons you wear around your neck, or require expensive base station equipment or a landline are the equivalent of a horse and buggy," Lawrence says. "It's just outdated."

Millions of seniors fall every year and spend hours lying on the floor helpless and all alone with no help.

But seniors who fall and get immediate help are much more likely to avoid getting sent to a nursing home and get to STAY living in their own home independently.

Yet millions of seniors are still risking their safety by not having a medical alert device. That's because seniors just can't afford to pay the monthly bills that come with old style medical alert devices.

That's why seniors born before 1956 are rushing to cash in the whopping $150 instant rebate before the 2 day deadline ends.

So there's no need to wait for FastHelp to hit store shelves later this year because seniors born before 1956 can get it now just by using the $150 instant rebate coupon printed in today's newspaper before the 2-day deadline ends. If lines are busy keep trying, all calls will be answered. ■

■ **FLYING OUT THE DOOR:** Trucks are being loaded with a new medical alert device called FastHelp. That's because now that nearly everyone is sheltered in place and doing all they can to keep safe, it's critical that workers take every safety precaution possible to make sure these lifesaving devices get delivered to lucky seniors who call the National Rebate Center Hotline today. Everyone is calling to get FastHelp, the sleek new medical alert device because it instantly connects you to unlimited nationwide help everywhere cell service is available with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills ever.

HOW TO GET IT:

▶ **IF BORN BEFORE 1956:** Use the rebate coupon below and call this Toll-Free Hotline: 1-800-918-2198 EXT. HELP2128

▶ **IF BORN AFTER 1956:** You cannot use the rebate coupon below and must pay $299 Call: 1-888-622-2116 EXT. HELP2128

THE BOTTOM LINE: You don't need to shop around. We've done all the leg work, this deal is too good to pass up. FastHelp with the instant rebate is a real steal at just $149 and shipping and there are no monthly bills ever.

PROS: It's the sleek new medical alert device that comes with the exclusive FastHelp One-Touch E 911 Button that instantly connects you to free unlimited nationwide help everywhere cell service is available with no contracts or deposits. It connects you to the vast available network of cellular towers for free and saves seniors a ton of money because there are no monthly bills ever making this deal irresistible. Plus it's the only medical alert device that makes seniors look important, not old.

CONS: Consumers can't get FastHelp in stores until later this year. That's why it's so important for seniors born before 1956 to call the National Rebate Center Hotline within the next 2 days. For those who miss that deadline, the sleek little medical alert device will set you back over $300 bucks.

P7253A OF21693R-1

REBATE COUPON

EXPIRES 2 Days From Today's Publication Date

After Coupon Expires: The FastHelp is $299.00 plus shipping & handling

$150 Off HELP2128

FastHelp, the new medical alert device that instantly connects you to free unlimited nationwide help everywhere cell service is available with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills ever.

USE THIS COUPON: To get $150 off FastHelp you must be born before 1956 and call the National Rebate Center Hotline at **1-800-918-2198 EXT. HELP2128** before the 2-day rebate deadline ends.

FastHelp™

One-touch help. Anytime. Anywhere.
With no monthly bills ever.

FASTHELP IS COVERED BY A 30-DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE LESS SHIPPING AND A 1 YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY. FASTHELP IS A 3G GSM CELLULAR DEVICE. FASTHELP WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE 911 CALLS WHEN CELLULAR SERVICE IS NOT AVAILABLE SUCH AS IN REMOTE AREAS. FASTHELP USES GPS TRIANGULATIONS TO APPROXIMATE YOUR LOCATION WHEN YOUR DEVICE IS TURNED ON. DR. HOWREN IS A COMPENSATED MEDICAL ADVISOR AND FRANK MCDONALD IS AN ACTUAL USER AND COMPENSATED FOR HIS PARTICIPATION. OH RESIDENTS ADD 6.5% SALES TAX. UNIVERSAL PHYSICIANS 7747 SUPREME AVE, NORTH CANTON, OH 44720.

PRIME TIME TV

THURSDAY EVENING MAY 28

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC 7 13 41 57	Wheel of Fortune	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire (N)		Holey Moley (N) CC (DVS)		To Tell the Truth (N) CC (DVS)	
CBS 2 3 22	Ent. Tonight	Young Sheldon	Man With a Plan (N)	:01 Mom CC	Broke (N) CC	S.W.A.T. CC	
NBC 5 8 16	Ac. Hollywood	Council of Dads "Tradition!" (N)		Blindspot "Existential Ennui" (N) CC		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	
FOX 17 222 28 32	Modern Family	Celebrity Watch Party (N)		Labor of Love (N) CC		Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N) CC	
PBS 34	Radar-Michigan	Poldark on Masterpiece CC		Father Brown CC		Antiques Roadshow Babe Ruth archive.	
CW 25	Big Bang Theory	Burden of Truth "Wherever You Go"		In the Dark (N) CC		News	Seinfeld CC
MNT 50	Family Feud	Chicago P.D. "Saved"		Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC		Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC	
WCIU 26	Mike & Molly	Burden of Truth "Wherever You Go"		In the Dark (N) CC		2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls
WHME 46	:00 Heartland	Heartland Tim's racehorse is stolen.		Highway to Heaven CC		Nightly News	
WGN 9	News	Illinois Town Hall: COVID-19		black-ish	Last Man Standing	WGN News at Nine (N) (L) CC	
A&E	:00 The First 48	The First 48 A young woman set on fire.		The First 48 "In a Lonely Place" CC		First 48: Case-Haunts Me	
AMC	5:30 Con Air	★★★★ The Shawshank Redemption ('94) Tim Robbins. An innocent man goes to a Maine penitentiary for life in 1947. CC					
Animal	Catch	Deadliest Catch		Deadliest Catch		Deadliest Catch (N)	
BET	6:30 ★★ This Christmas			★★ The Best Man Holiday ('13) CC			
Big Ten	BTN in 60	Journey	Michigan Basketball		Journey	B1G	Purdue
Bravo	Housewives	Housewives/NYC		Housewives/NYC		Top Chef "Michael's Santa Monica" (N)	
Cartoon	We Bare	American	American	American	Rick	Burgers	Burgers
Cinemax	★★ Skyscraper	★★ Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom ('18) Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard. CC				:10 ★★ The Ruins ('08) CC	
CMT	Last Man	Gold Girls	Gold Girls	Gold Girls	Gold Girls	Gold Girls	Gold Girls
CNBC	Special	Shark Tank CC		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	OutFront	Coronavirus: Facts and Fears				Cuomo Prime Time	
Comedy	Office	Office	Office	Chappelle	Chappelle	Chappelle	Chappelle
Discovery	Naked Afraid	Naked and Afraid: Uncensored "Chilled to the Bone" Hypothermia threatens a fan survivalist. (N) CC					
Disney	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Raven	Just Roll	Gabby	Coop
DIY	Pool	Insane Pools		Insane Pools		Insane Pools	
E!	Chrisley	Total Bellas CC		Total Bellas (N)		Botched CC	
ESPN	:00 College Football From Jan. 3, 2003.						
ESPN2	:00 Spelling Bee CC					NFL Live CC	
ESPNC	Baseball	MLB Baseball				MLB Baseball	
Food	Beat Flay	Beat Flay	Beat Flay	Restaurant: Im.		Questlove's Potluck	
Fox News	The Story	Tucker Carlson		Hannity (N) CC		The Ingraham Angle	
Fox Sports	Un	Twins Classics At Metrodome. From July 16, 1985. (N)					Michigan
Freefrm	★ Grown Ups ('10, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Kevin James, Chris Rock. CC					Siren "The Toll of the Sea" CC	
FX	5:30 Deadpool	★★ Transformers: Age of Extinction ('14) Mark Wahlberg. Optimus Prime and the Autobots face fearsome challengers.					
Golf	:00 Web.com Tour Championships CC						
Hallmark	Valentine Mat	The Convenient Groom ('16) Vanessa Marcil, David Sutcliffe, Karen Kruper. CC				Golden Girls	Golden Girls
HBO	:20 ★★★ Ready or Not ('19) Samara Weaving. CC			We're Here "Gettysburg, Pennsylvania"		Insecure CC	Betty CC
History	Mnt. Men	Mountain Men: Fully Loaded "Surviving the Wild" (N) CC					
HGTV	Flip	Flip	Flip	Flipping	Flipping	Hunters	Hunt Intl
Learning	Hoarding	Hoard-Buried		Hoard-Buried		Hoard-Buried	
Lifetime	King of Queens	King of Queens	King of Queens	King of Queens	King of Queens	King of Queens	King of Queens
MSNBC	Decision	All In With		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word	
MTV	Jersey	Jersey Shore		Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.
NBCSCH	Sports	White Sox Rewind Game 3. (N)					Classics
NFL	NFL Total	A Football Life		A Football Life		A Football Life	
Nick	Sponge.	★★ Tooth Fairy ('10) Dwayne Johnson. CC					Friends
NGEO	Troopers	Alaska-Trooper		Alaska-Trooper		Alaska-Trooper	
Oxygen	:00 Snapped	Killer Couples A couple is gunned down.		Killer Couples CC		Dateline: Secrets Uncovered CC	
Parmt	Two Men	★★★ Training Day ('01) Denzel Washington.					Four Bros
Showtime	Best Enemies	Shameless Rehabilitating a delinquent.		Billions "Opportunity Zone" CC		Desus & Mero	Californication
Starz	Think Like Man	:14 Vida "Episode 21" CC		8:56 ★★ The Equalizer 2 ('18) Denzel Washington, Pedro Pascal. CC			
STZENC	6:59 ★★★★ Shane ('53) Alan Ladd, Jean Arthur. CC			★★ The Defiant Ones ('86) Robert Urich. (P).			Chinatown ('74)
SyFy	★★ Journey 2: The Mysterious Island		★★ The Hitman's Bodyguard ('17, Action) Ryan Reynolds, Samuel L. Jackson, Gary Oldman. CC (DVS)				
TBS	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The Misery Index
TCM	Girl in Port	★★ Our Vines Have Tender Grapes ('45, Drama) Edward G. Robinson. CC				The Woman in the Window ('44)	
TMC	★★ Red Dawn	The Professor ('18) Johnny Depp, Zoey Deutch. CC			:35 ★★★ Blue Valentine ('10, Drama) Ryan Gosling. CC		
TNT	:00 Bones	★★ Fast & Furious ('09) Vin Diesel.				2 Fast 2 Furious ('03)	
Travel	Ghost	Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures		Portals to Hell (N)	
TV Land	Andy G.	Raymond	Everybody Raymond		Raymond	Two Men	Two Men
USA	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Chicago P.D. "This City" CC (DVS)	
VH1	★★ Madea's Family Reunion			Wild/Out	Wild/Out	Wild/Out	Wild/Out
WGN-A	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met

Wife can't shake distrust of husband caught in a lie

Jeanne Phillips
Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are 58 and getting ready to celebrate our first wedding anniversary. We knew each other in college, but were just friends back then. After college, we married others and raised children. We stayed married to our spouses for close to 30 years.

We reconnected eight years ago, started an affair and divorced our partners. Neither of us is proud of this. My adult children have accepted my husband. His refused to accept me, and only one of them has a relationship with him.

He was out of town recently, and I caught him in a lie about having invited a female former colleague to lunch with him. I was shocked and hurt because this is how our relationship started. He has apologized, but I can't get over the fact he lied to me, and it has caused a rift between us. He has always been honest with me, so I wonder why he lied about this woman.

I know I'm in no position to judge others. I can't afford counseling, and we don't belong to a church for spiritual help. I suffer from depression and anxiety (I am under the care of a doctor and take medication) but cannot shake the sadness. How can I ever trust my husband again? – Hurting Heart In The Mountains

DEAR HURTING HEART: In light of the way your affair with your husband began, he may have lied because he was afraid of upsetting you. A way to start this very necessary conversation would be to tell him how shaken you are that he wasn't truthful and try to get him to explain why he thought he had to lie. You should also ask if he thinks there is anything awry in your marriage.

If he tells you nothing is wrong and there is nothing he would change, believe him. However, if after that, you are still feeling insecure, ask the doctor who is treating your depression and anxiety to suggest some low-cost mental health/counseling services in your community.

DEAR ABBY: I need your advice about a problem I'm facing with a man I've been dating almost four years. When I met "Jeff," he had two older Yorkshire terriers. Both were very territorial and relieved themselves in the house. I told him I was concerned about moving in with him because of his out-of-control dogs, and he understood. They were older dogs, and I knew one day they would pass, so I waited patiently.

Then Jeff's neighbor passed away, leaving a dog. He adopted that dog, and it has become a bigger issue than the first two. The new dog is very aggressive. It tries to bite me and won't let me into certain rooms in the house! I expressed my concern to Jeff, but nothing has been done.

We are currently engaged but living separately. I told Jeff that we need to live together before getting married, so I gave him an ultimatum – try to find a home for the new dog and I'll move in.

That was two years ago, and nothing has been done. At this point, I suspect that he adopted the third dog without me knowing in order to prevent me from moving in. I feel like he chose the new dog over me! What do I do? – Overlooked Human In California

DEAR OVERLOOKED HUMAN: Listen to your intuition and accept that where you are concerned, Jeff has a commitment problem. If he wanted you to live with him, he would not have taken in an aggressive animal. Without saying it in words, he is sending you a strong message. From where I sit, you may have devoted enough time to a romance that's going nowhere. Give Jeff a choice: Kennel train the dog or the romance is over.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Minimalist wants girlfriend to unclutter home

Carolyn Hax

DEAR CAROLYN: I've been dating "Emma" for six months. It's not serious yet but I can see us heading that way.

We're very compatible in most ways, except that Emma has way too much stuff. Her place isn't messy and she's not a hoarder, but she has several bookshelves just loaded with books. It's got to be hundreds and they're nothing special, just old paperbacks.

She collects art glass, and it's on her coffee table, hanging in her windows and on those already overloaded bookshelves. She has dozens of wall hangings, too, and her sofa is piled with throws, her floor with floor pillows, everywhere you look there's "stuff."

I was once like her but learned how freeing it is to get rid of the extraneous junk. Now I'm very much a minimalist and could never live in a jumble like that again.

I suggested Kon-Mari and gave her the book, but she hasn't done anything about it. I know how hard it is to start but I also know how much happier and more carefree she would be if she'd only get rid of the junk.

Also, we've talked about our relationship progressing and moving in together, but this is close to a showstopper for me. Should I make this clear to her? I'm wary of coming off as controlling but I also want to be honest. – Trying to Share the Magic of Tidying Up

TRYING TO SHARE THE MAGIC OF TIDYING UP: No, you don't "know how much happier and more carefree she would be if she'd only get rid of the junk."

You know YOU were much happier and more carefree. But she might take great comfort in her booky, glassy, pillowy nest. And you don't get to tell her (or anyone else) how she feels.

You're wary of "coming off as" controlling, and the way to prevent that is to not be controlling. The way to not be controlling is to recognize the way you feel about a certain experience represents you and only you. And so you can't project your feelings/experience onto anyone else, much less plan or decide things for others based on your projections.

They feel what they feel, their choice.

It's your prerogative both to be a minimalist and to decide you can't live with a maximalist.

You just need to stay on your side of the line in expressing this: Say to her – once! – that you used to collect things, and won't go back to clutter. She can do with that information what she will. Stop the ex-smoker proselytizing.

A lot of happy life partners keep separate, even side-by-side homes, by the way.

READERS' THOUGHTS: – Friend, if "bookshelves loaded with books" are a dealbreaker for you, then you and Emma are in fact not all that compatible. – You get to set your priorities, not hers. – My books aren't "junk," they are my memories. "Trying" is projecting SO MUCH on "Emma," it's insulting. – Wow, Emma's house sounds like a place I would love to hang out – and Emma's partner sounds like the kind of person I avoid: people who lecture me on how to improve myself and give me homework to help me change, rather than people who appreciate my good points and support me in being myself.

Email Carolyn at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

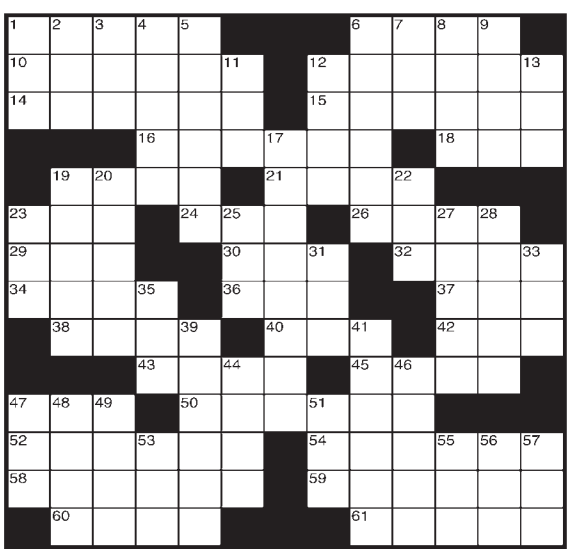
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Road imperfections
6 Folk monster
10 Seizes the throne
12 Ancient manuscript
14 Pilot fish
15 Brave
16 Whale or mouse
18 Brief craze
19 Barge
21 Operatic prince
23 Apply henna
24 Scale meas.
26 Small job
29 Website addr.
30 Novelist Umberto —
32 Film vamp — Harlow
34 Luau entertainment
36 Boston Bruins' org.
37 Pollution control org.
38 Harbor
40 Carder's demands
42 Small dog
43 Sulk angrily
45 Library sound
47 Preserve fruit
50 Bird with a colorful bill
52 Tasty egg dish
54 Farm machine
58 Nogales nosh
59 Breakfast nook
60 Freight hopper
61 Competed in slaloms

DOWN
1 Plant sticker
2 Not waste
3 Not talking
4 TV teaser
5 Stretch out
6 Nocturnal wildcat
7 Watchdog's warning
8 Weathervane site
9 Charles Lamb
11 Actor — Shepard
12 Catch a fly ball
13 Arith. term
17 Pranks
19 Pancake go-with
20 String quartet member
22 British rule in India
23 "That's obvious!"
25 Dr. Casey of '60s TV
27 Oozes
28 On the blink
31 Dilapidated
33 Short sleep
35 Kennel sound
39 Elvis' hometown
41 Hard sells, maybe
44 Remote control button
46 Peanuts or popcorn
47 Canvas bed
48 Nursemaid of India
49 Fictional captain
51 Monastic title
53 Chemist's hangout
55 Taro dish
56 Day before
57 Barn color

Answer to Previous Puzzle

	M	E	S	S	Y			O	A	T	E	R
V	A	L	U	E	D		Y	A	M	A	H	A
E	R	U	P	T	S		A	R	O	U	S	E
A	I	D	E	S		A	P	S	E			
L	E	E	R		J	U	S		B	A	J	A
			S	P	A	R			A	L	E	X
R	O	T		O	V	E	R	T		A	D	E
E	K	E		P	A	L	E	D		N	I	L
A	R	A	B			I	N	S	T			
D	A	L	E		B	U	D		Y	V	E	S
			L	U	I	S		T	R	A	M	P
S	E	C	O	N	D		H	E	A	D	E	R
A	M	E	N	D	S		O	R	N	E	R	Y
L	U	E	G	O			E	N	T	R	Y	



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JUMBLE

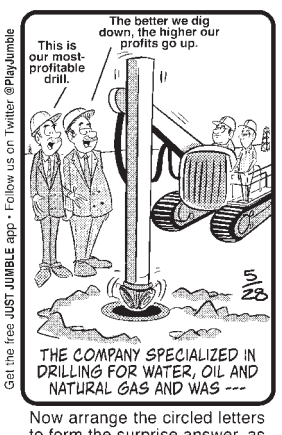
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NIYCC

WYOLL

VLAREG

HELODB


The better we dig down, the higher our profits go up.
This is our most-profitable drill.
THE COMPANY SPECIALIZED IN DRILLING FOR WATER, OIL AND NATURAL GAS AND WAS ---
5/28

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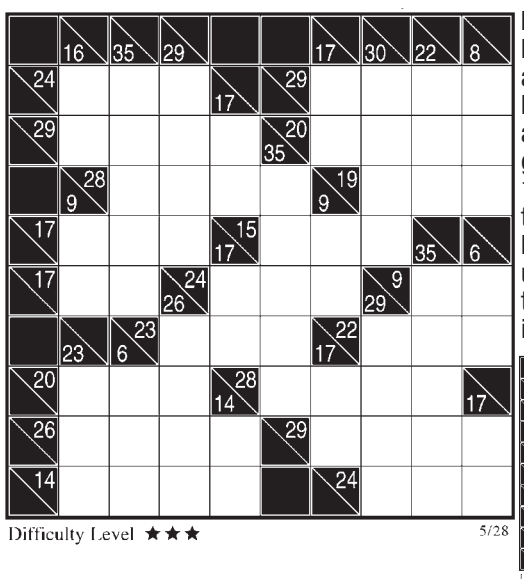
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: _____ _____

(Answers tomorrow)

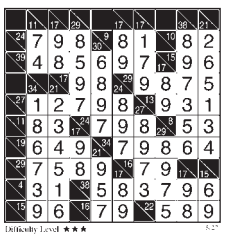
Yesterday's Jumbles: ABIDE FOCUS BEAGLE AGENDA
Answer: When the kids got too close to the rim of the Grand Canyon, their parents were — ON EDGE

KAKURO



Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/28

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



BRIDGE

Alexander Graham Bell said, "When one door closes, another door opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the ones that open for us."

In bridge, a door often represents an entry card. But occasionally it refers to strain. How is that relevant in today's deal, which arose in a matchpointed pairs event? In particular, what should North have bid next after this start to the auction? Two hearts was fourth-suit game-forcing.

When Steve Conrad of Manhasset, Long Island, bid two hearts, he was hoping his partner could continue with two no-trump, showing at least one heart stopper. But when she could not, he realized that the no-trump door was closed. He thought about five diamonds but was worried that they would lose two hearts and another ace. So, Conrad continued with three spades, happy to play in the 4-3 fit.

After West led off with his two top hearts, how should South have continued?

My guess is that several Wests threw in a one-heart overcall. Then, after North responded two diamonds, East jumped to four hearts – with a 10-card fit, get to the 10-trick level. That made life hard for North-South. If they doubled, the contract would go down three, plus 500, which was worse than a vulnerable game their way.

In four spades, South discarded a diamond on the second heart, lost the third trick to the diamond ace, won the next trick, cashed dummy's clubs, drew trumps ending in hand and ran the clubs. Plus 620 was a top compared with the row of 600s from five of either minor.

North 05-28-20
♠ K Q 2
♥ 8 2
♦ K Q J 10 5 3
♣ K Q

West
♠ 9 4 3
♥ A K 7 5 4
♦ 6 4
♣ J 9 4

East
♠ 8 6 5
♥ J 10 9 6 3
♦ A 9 8
♣ 7 5

South
♠ A J 10 7
♥ Q
♦ 7 2
♣ A 10 8 6 3 2

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: North-South

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	??	

Opening lead: ♥ A

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

	9			1				
6				8				5
8		7	9	4		1		
				3			8	4
2			6		4			9
1	4			2				
		5		6	3	7		8
9				7				2
				9			6	

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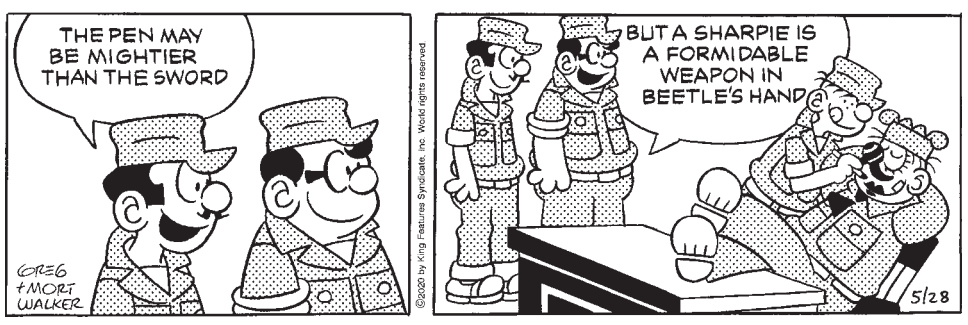
How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

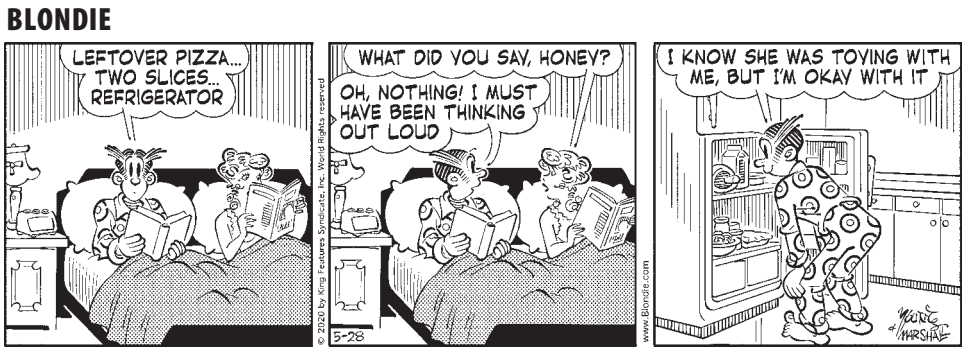
PREVIOUS SOLUTION

4	7	2	3	6	5	8	9	1
6	5	1	9	7	8	2	4	3
3	9	8	1	4	2	6	7	5
5	6	7	8	3	4	1	2	9
2	1	4	7	9	6	3	5	8
9	8	3	2	5	1	4	6	7
1	4	6	5	8	9	7	3	2
8	3	9	6	2	7	5	1	4
7	2	5	4	1	3	9	8	6

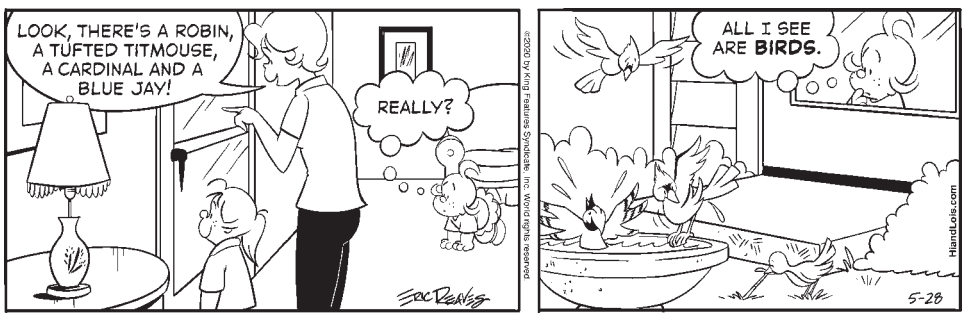
BEETLE BAILEY



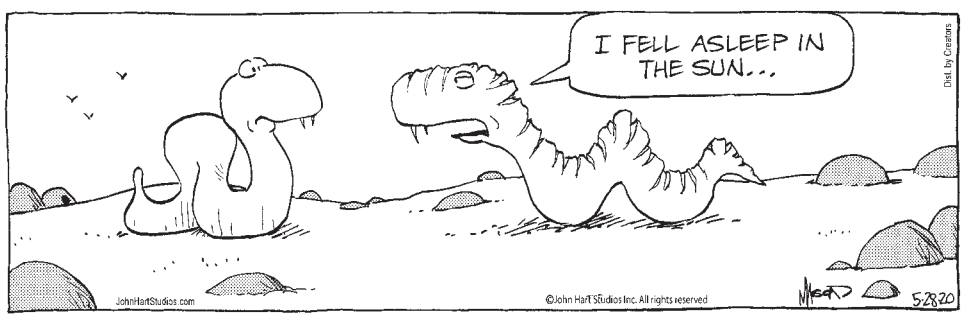
BLONDIE


LEFTOVER PIZZA... TWO SLICES... REFRIGERATOR
WHAT DID YOU SAY, HONEY?
OH, NOTHING! I MUST HAVE BEEN THINKING OUT LOUD
5-28
I KNOW SHE WAS TOYING WITH ME, BUT I'M OKAY WITH IT

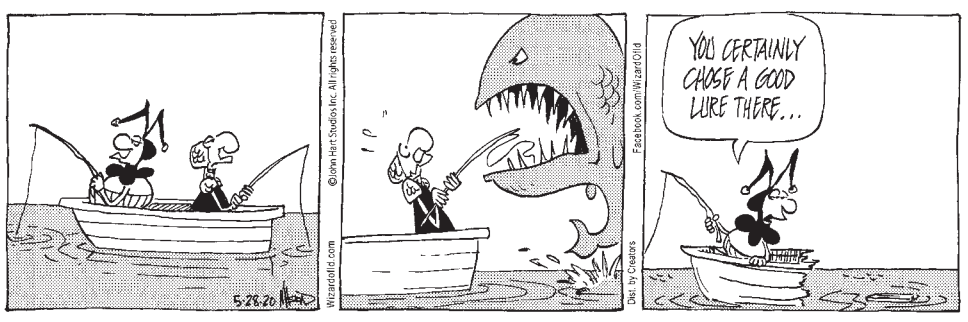
HI & LOIS



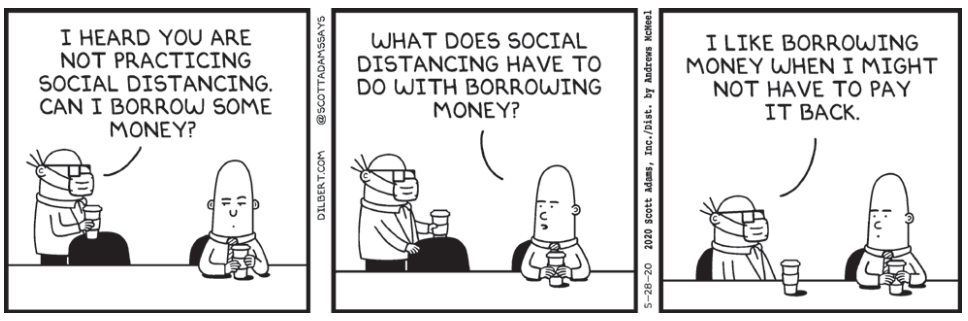
BC



WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT


I HEARD YOU ARE NOT PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING. CAN I BORROW SOME MONEY?
WHAT DOES SOCIAL DISTANCING HAVE TO DO WITH BORROWING MONEY?
I LIKE BORROWING MONEY WHEN I MIGHT NOT HAVE TO PAY IT BACK.
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
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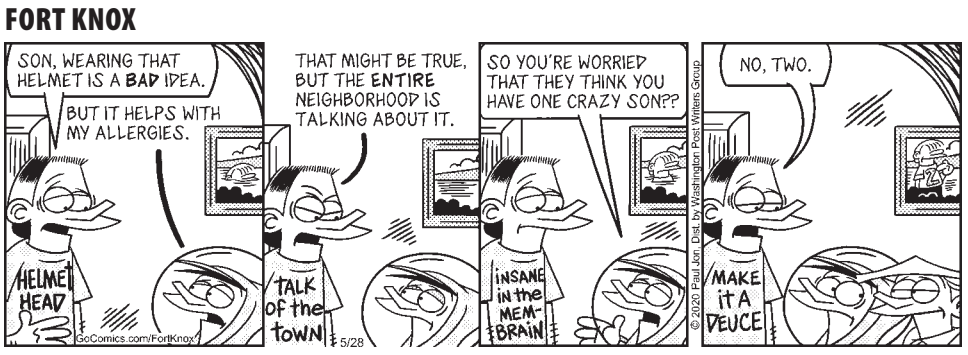
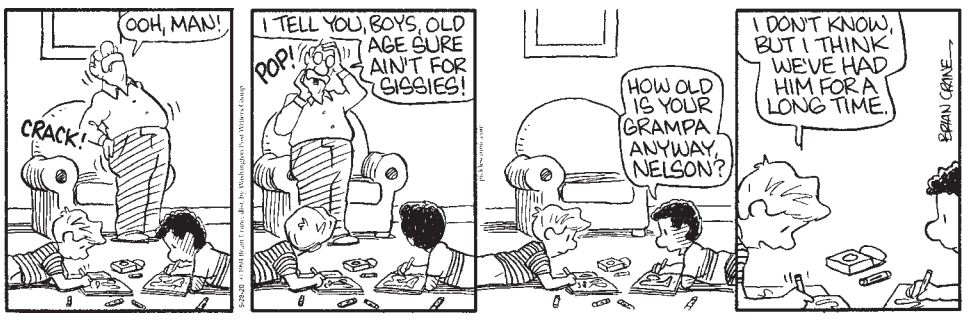
GARFIELD

MR. ARBUCKLE, I SEE YOU'RE SCHEDULED FOR A CLAWING THIS AFTERNOON
I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO CHARGE YOU FOR A CANCELED APPOINTMENT!
JIM DAVIS 5-28

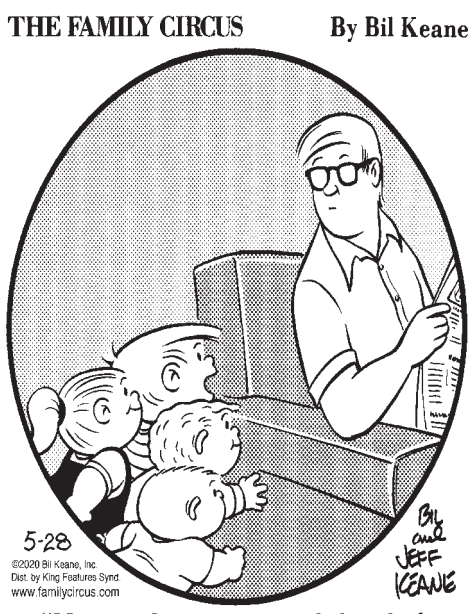
FORT KNOX


SON, WEARING THAT HELMET IS A BAD IDEA.
BUT IT HELPS WITH MY ALLERGIES.
THAT MIGHT BE TRUE, BUT THE ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD IS TALKING ABOUT IT.
SO YOU'RE WORRIED THAT THEY THINK YOU HAVE ONE CRAZY SON??
NO, TWO.
HELMET HEAD
TALK of the TOWN
INSANE in the MEM-BRAIN
MAKE it A DEUCE
5/28

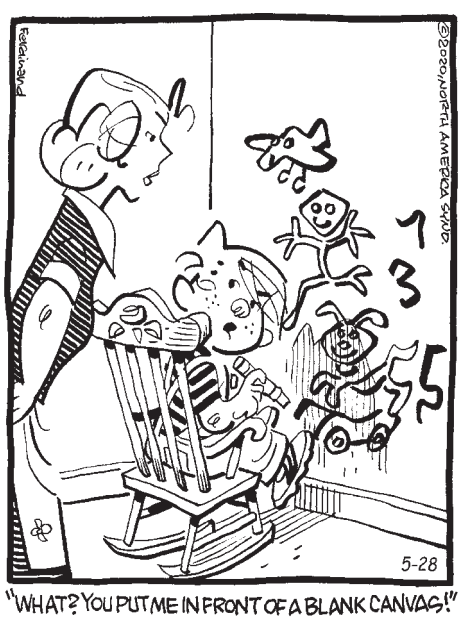
PICKLES


OOH, MAN!
CRACK!
I TELL YOU, BOYS, OLD AGE SURE AIN'T FOR SISSIES!
POP!
HOW OLD IS YOUR GRAMPA ANYWAY, NELSON?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I THINK WE'VE HAD HIM FOR A LONG TIME.
BRIAN CRANE

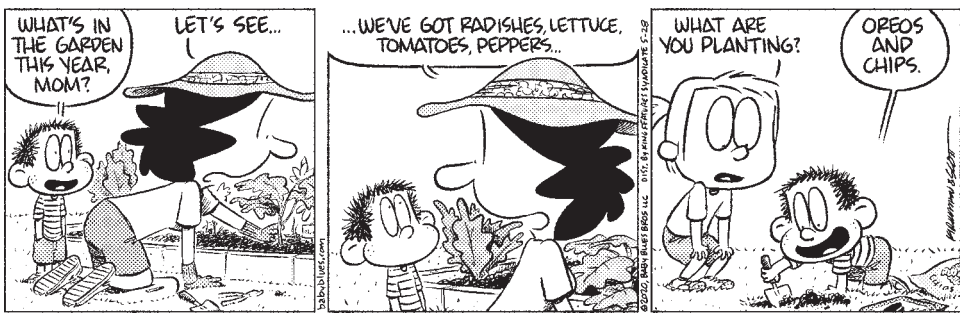
FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



BABY BLUES


WHAT'S IN THE GARDEN THIS YEAR, MOM?
LET'S SEE...
...WE'VE GOT RADISHES, LETTUCE, TOMATOES, PEPPERS...
WHAT ARE YOU PLANTING?
OREOS AND CHIPS.

CURTIS

MAY I USE YOUR CREDIT CARD TO ORDER NEW SNEAKERS ONLINE? ONLY TWO HUNDRED BUCKS!
DO YOU EVER LISTEN TO YOURSELF BEFORE YOU SAY IT OUT LOUD?
I'VE SPOKEN WITH DOGS AND HORSES WHO HAVE MADE MORE SENSE!
A SIMPLE "NO" WOULD DO
A SIMPLE "NO" WOULDN'T SINK IN
5/28

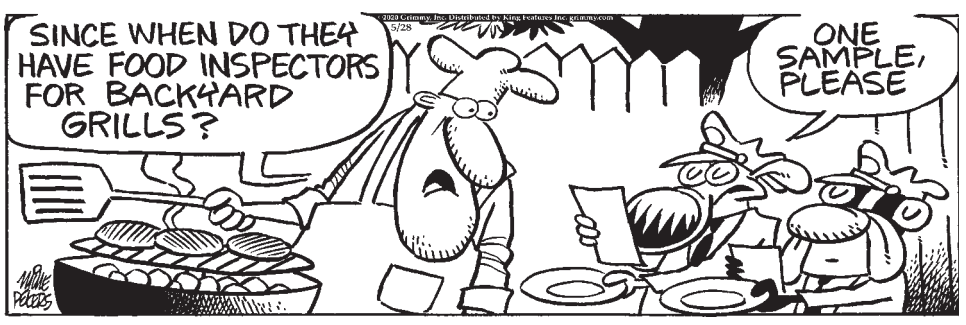
ZITS

DO YOU LIKE BEING AN ORTHODONTIST, DAD?
LOVE IT. WHY DO YOU ASK?
I JUST WONDER IF IT BOTHERS YOU THAT YOU'LL NEVER GET A PROMOTION OR A COOL NEW TITLE.
SOMETHING WRONG?
I'M STUCK IN A DEAD-END SUCCESSFUL CAREER.
BIG MAMA THORNTON
SCOTT MAIDMENT & BORGMAN

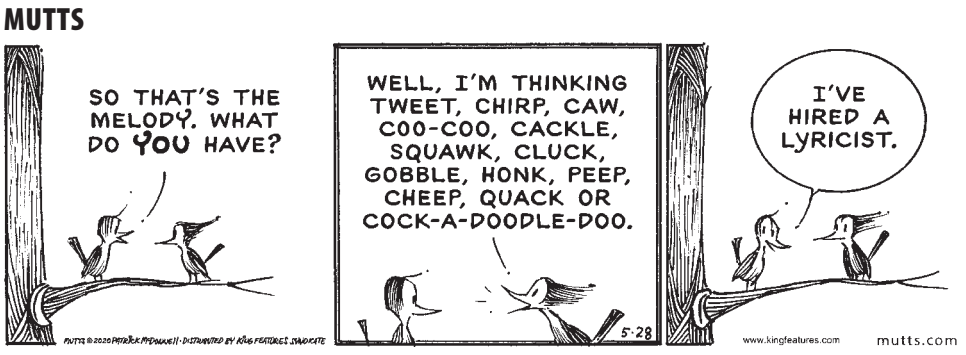
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

THIS BIOGRAPHY IS A GREAT READ!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY MY BIOGRAPHY WASN'T A BEST-SELLER!
THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF VIKINGS WHO CAN RELATE TO MY LIFE!
5-28
THAT'S THE TROUBLE! THEY CAN'T READ EITHER!
BROWNE

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



MUTTS


SO THAT'S THE MELODY. WHAT DO YOU HAVE?
WELL, I'M THINKING TWEET, CHIRP, CAW, COO-COO, CACKLE, SQUAWK, CLUCK, GOBBLE, HONK, PEEP, CHEEP, QUACK OR COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO.
I'VE HIRED A LYRICIST.
5-28
www.kingfeatures.com
mutts.com

SALLY FORTH

THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF SUMMER STAYCATIONS
#4: DON'T STAY INDOORS THE WHOLE TIME
IT'S TIME WE RECONNECT WITH NATURE. BESIDES, WE HAVE THE WHOLE WOODS TO OURSELVES.
BUT YOU KNOW THIS IS JUST AN EXCUSE FOR DAD TO SAY...
THIS REMINDS ME OF MY CHILDHOOD WALKS IN THE WOODS WITH JEFF, JAMES, VAL AND BRUCE.
ONLY THIS TIME WE PROBABLY WON'T MEET THAT SLICK BLUEJAY WHO FAST-TALKED US INTO A PONZI SCHEME. YOU WOULDN'T THINK EIGHT-YEAR-OLDS COULD LOSE TEN LARGE APIECE, BUT...
5-28
KEEFE

The Herald-Palladium
DON'T MISS
THIS WEEKEND'S
ISSUE
Included in Saturday's edition

Parade
WEDDING BELLS ON FULLER HOUSE
BILL & TED ARE BACK
STEVE CARELL GOES TO OUTER SPACE
HAPPY DAD'S DAY, RON HOWARD
GAL GADOT KICKS BUTT IN WONDER WOMAN 1984!
SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE
JITTERBUG PHONES
25% OFF
LIMITED TIME OFFER

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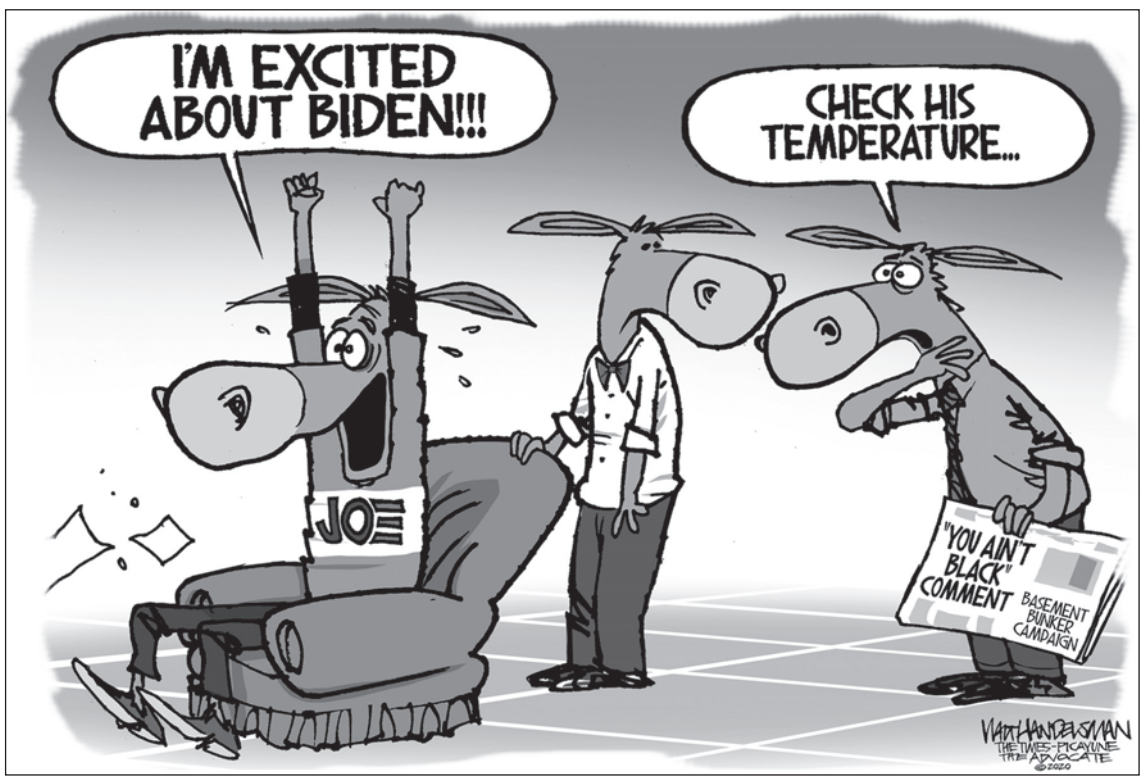
DAVE BROWN Managing Editor
DALE BREWER Local News Editor
KATIE KRAWCZAK Design Editor

Joe, just say Amy



Kathleen Parker

It is rarely a good idea to make campaign promises that put you in a box or could go very wrong, as nearly every president can attest.

Joe Biden must have skipped that chapter in the campaign how-to handbook. He's now stuck with vows to appoint women and minorities to key positions that he could find complicated to keep.

Not only has he promised a female running-mate but also an African American woman to the Supreme Court. There's nothing wrong with these goals, which are overdue, but problems arise when circumstances change.

The pandemic, for example. It would be smart for Biden to consider New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo as his running mate, if for no other reason than that Cuomo, along with NIH epidemiologist Anthony S. Fauci, are about the only names many Americans trust in this time of national crisis.

It may prove equally vexing to find a black woman for the high court given that most justices are culled from federal appellate courts. There are only five black women currently serving on U.S. appeals courts, all of whom will be over 68 this year, according to NBC News and the Federal Judicial Center. Democrats may prefer someone younger to get the nod.

Biden made this promise just days before the South Carolina Democratic primary where black voters are essential to victory. The next day, he received the golden endorsement of House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn, D-S.C., who is credited with handing the nomination to Biden. Black voters throughout the South came out in droves for ol' Joe – and now they're passing the collection plate.

But that promise cannot be kept until he is elected and whether he is elected may turn on how he keeps the first promise: to name a female running mate. It's safe to say that at no other time in recent history has the person riding shotgun been so critical. Biden would be the oldest president to assume office at 78 and has begun lately to look challenged at times by his age. Thus, voters must be able to envision the vice president, whoever she might be, as the president of the United States. And even if Biden bears up well, his pick will likely be next in line, at least, for the Democrats.

If I were Sen. Kamala Harris, who appears to be on the short list, I'd drop my bid for the number two spot and make a play for the high court. She's sat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, and has been a former prosecutor and California's attorney general. And she is young, age 55.

Another reason Harris may want to bet her chips on the Court instead of the vice presidency: She was often sharply critical of Biden in the debates, as in the time she all but drove Biden to his knees, repenting a regrettable anti-busing position decades ago. It was an unnecessarily humiliating moment for Biden that likely struck many Americans as more unfair than righteous.

Stacey Abrams, a former Georgia representative and unsuccessful 2018 gubernatorial candidate, has also been mentioned as a possible VP. A Yale-educated lawyer, she's a social-justice, voting-rights warrior who blames voter suppression for her loss, by 55,000 votes, to Gov. Brian Kemp. On a personal note, she had me at, "I'm not going to do class warfare; I want to be wealthy" when she said those words in a recent speech. But she's unlikely to be widely viewed as qualified for the nation's top office.

I'm not sure that can be said of Congresswoman Val Demings, D-Florida, a former Orlando police chief. Some say Demings will help Biden with black voters who view his 1994 crime bill as racist. But as a presence on the camera? She would be a far more convincing commander-in-chief than the current occupant.

This brings us to Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, the Minnesota "nice" candidate who brags about winning in "red districts." Alas, she happens to be white and, perhaps more troubling to liberals, a moderate. While liberals prefer someone more progressive and others are demanding an African American woman on the ticket, such concerns should be understood as less important than winning in November. With all due respect to Charlamagne tha God's insistence that Klobuchar would hurt black voter turnout, it is hard to believe that Klobuchar would be a net loss for the Democrats with so many red and purple states seemingly in play.

The path to victory isn't paved with progressive promises. It looks more like Main Street: a broad avenue of hope for a sane, steady future. The vast majority of Americans are ready for the middle road. Klobuchar has a cheerful outlook, a sharp mind, an impressive Senate record and a comforting, maternal vibe who could allay concerns about Biden's age and health. If winning is the goal, she's Biden's best bet.

He can square the circles after he's elected.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com.

LETTERS

Good riddance to the 'tarp house'

Editor,

I noticed in last Friday's HP that an end has come to the "tarp house." Yay! After months of struggle by the city of St. Joe to resolve this issue, an eyesore has finally come down.

Friday, I passed by to see the results, and wow! what a great job B&Z Construction did. Not only did they fill in the old foundation, they reseeded and laid down a protective layer of straw, and it looks great! I am sure the surrounding neighbors are happy, too. Kudos to everyone involved.

Jerry Baumgarten
Benton Harbor

Please wear a mask, for me

Editor,

People who continue to practice social distancing and wear masks think that is the responsible thing for all of us to do. I wear a mask to protect you. Please do the same for me.

Yes, let's get outdoors, plant gardens and be renewed by nature. But let's continue to limit public gatherings and not put others at risk by our behavior. The fact is, none of us is immune. We all need to do our part for the good of the whole.

Those of us who took the bacterial pneumonia and flu shots are not protected from everything that comes around. Let's hope for COVID-19 and viral pneumonia vaccines, just as our elders did when the polio vaccine brought relief in the 1950s.

It is noble to choose not to follow a herd mentality that seems more interested in individual "rights" than in responsibility to the whole. Over 67,000 deaths in the U.S. in the first two months is astounding! The danger cannot be protested away.

Let's do all that we can to avoid the 675,000 U.S. deaths in the "forgotten flu" pandemic of a century ago. Let's learn history's lessons, so we do not have to repeat them.

Live responsibly.
Keep your distance, please.
Wear a mask for me.
Overcome disease.

Jeanne Shuler
St. Joseph

Trump doesn't like mail-in voting, but it's not his call

Doyle McManus

A confession: I voted by mail recently. And it didn't feel dirty at all.

Like every voter, I had been warned against the practice by President Donald Trump.

"Mail-in ballots are very dangerous," he said. "There's tremendous fraud involved and tremendous illegality."

"You get thousands and thousands of people sitting in somebody's living room, signing ballots all over the place," he explained in April.

Busted! In our case, though, it was only three of us, not thousands. My wife, our daughter and I sat around a table, puzzled over the choices for Circuit Court and Board of Education, and shared a pen to sign the envelopes.

In our defense, we didn't have much choice. In Maryland, where I live, our governor, a moderate Republican named Larry Hogan, decided that in-person voting would be too dangerous in a pandemic. Hogan closed most polling places and ordered counties to send mail-in ballots to every registered voter.

It seemed like a sensible precaution. But Trump objected so strongly that he threatened to block federal funding from Michigan and Nevada if they follow the same course. Both states have Democratic governors; oddly, he didn't target any Republicans.

There's no real evidence to support the president's frequent charge that mail-in ballots leads to fraud.

The only large-scale vote fraud in recent years happened in North Carolina in 2018, but the problem wasn't mail-in ballots. It was "ballot harvesting," which allows campaign workers to collect ballots door-to-door. The culprit was a Republican.

Every so often, though, the president mentions a political objection too. Mail-in voting "doesn't work out well for Republicans," he tweeted last month.

He said a Democratic proposal to require mail ballots nationwide would produce "levels of voting that, if you ever agreed to it, you'd never have a Republican elected in this country again."

Many Republican political strategists think Trump is right on that count – that if voting is made easier, more Democrats will participate.

"There's long been a fear that measures like automatic voter registration and vote by mail will help Democrats turn out more poor people and more black people," a longtime Republican strategist told me. (He demanded anonymity to speak frankly.) "There's a part of the GOP that is quite comfortable with voter suppression."

Republican political consultant John Brabender was more diplomatic. He said he believes mail-in voting will help Democrats because their voters turn out less consistently, especially in cities.

But he worries that Trump is hurting his own party by denouncing mail voting so fiercely. In states that allow mail voting, GOP leaders have been urging the party faithful to participate – only to be denounced by Trump supporters as turncoats.

"If we spend all our time criticizing vote by mail, the results could become self-fulfilling," he warned.

Ironically, voting by mail in its old-fashioned version, the absentee ballot, has traditionally been a Republican specialty.

GOP leaders in California, Arizona, Florida and other states have long urged their supporters, especially older voters, to vote by mail. Trump used an absentee ballot to vote in Florida's primary this year.

Republican National Committee Chair Ronna Romney McDaniel says she still favors absentee voting – just not universal ballot distribution.

"We are really against … the ballots being sent directly to people who may or may not want them," she explained.

In other words, voting by mail is fine – just as long as it isn't too easy. But those nakedly political debates date from before the coronavirus made polling places hazardous to your health.

What are states to do this fall, when we could be contending with a second wave of the pandemic? Can safety trump gamesmanship?

Maybe. In many states, even Republican governors are heeding the call for easy access to mail ballots, no matter what Trump says.

Ohio, South Carolina and West Virginia have all expanded absentee voting. Even Florida, where Trump votes, has maintained relatively permissive rules.

The real challenge is likely to be funding. Mail-in elections will be costly for states and counties – not only from postage, but because they will need more people and machines to count millions of paper ballots.

It will be "a tsunami," predicted Richard L. Hasen, an election law expert at UC Irvine. "These ballots are going to come whether the resources are there or not. And if the resources are not there, it increases the chances of a sloppy count and litigation, especially if the election result is close."

It may take days or weeks to count the ballots – a problem familiar to Californians, but not to the rest of the nation.

House Democrats have passed a pandemic relief bill that includes $3.6 billion in election funding, but Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has said he intends to block the measure.

Governors and state election officials are already forming bipartisan coalitions to try to wrangle new funding from Congress.

Running a clean election by mail shouldn't be hard. All it requires is funding, organization and vigilance against fraud. But the president and his campaign seem bent on making it harder than it needs to be.

If the result is close, Trump will charge fraud. He did that even after he won in 2016.

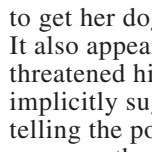
Maybe it's projection; maybe the president really believes everyone's a cheater. Maybe it's just noise to keep his supporters fired up. Maybe he's laying the groundwork to contest the result if he loses.

Whatever the case, he's not only undermining the legitimacy of the November election, he's doing it in the midst of the worst pandemic in a century. No wonder so many Republicans disagree with him for once.

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

Making the world a worse place, one Twitter mob at a time

Ben Shapiro



Life is filled with nuance, with complexity. Take, for example, the case of Amy Cooper. Cooper is a 41-year-old white woman who worked at Franklin Templeton, an asset management firm. She was walking her dog without a leash in the Ramble section of Central Park when she was confronted by a black man named Christian Cooper (no relation). He told her to leash her dog; she refused. According to Christian, he then stated, "Look, if you're going to do what you want, I'm going to do what I want, but you're not going to like it." She asked what he meant. He then summoned her dog, planning to give the dog treats. "I pull out the dog treats I carry for just such intransigence," he explained.

At that point, he began filming the exchange. She told him to stop taping; he refused. While grabbing her dog by its collar, she informed him she would call the cops. "I'm going to tell them there's an African American man threatening my life," she said. He responded, "Please tell them whatever you like." She did, in fact, call the police, and said: "I'm in the Ramble, and there's a man, African American. He has a bicycle helmet, and he is recording me and threatening me and my dog."

In real life, we'd examine the issue as objectively as possible. It appears that Christian Cooper did indeed say something vaguely threatening – "I'm going to do what I want, but you're not going to like it" – and then attempted to get her dog to approach him. It also appears that Amy Cooper threatened him in racist fashion, implicitly suggesting that by telling the police that a black man was threatening her life, she could place him in mortal danger.

Suffice it to say that the proper solution here would have been for Amy Cooper to apologize and recognize the implicit racism in her own statements, for Christian Cooper to forgive her and for everyone to move on.

Instead, Christian Cooper posted the video. Twitter went wild. The outcome: Amy was labeled a racist and fired from her job, and had to surrender her dog. Her life was effectively ruined.

The world of social media has not made us any more responsible, any kinder or any more decent. It has made us far worse. That's because Twitter isn't about signaling virtue. It's about signaling *commitment*. It's insufficient to merely analyze events and give an honest take. You must be *for* or *against* something. And you demonstrate full *commitment* to that position. Your entire online identity rests on others retweeting or liking your purity of heart. There is no risk – only reward – in dunking on Amy Cooper, tweeting at her employer, encouraging her destruction. You will be rewarded for your anti-racism, amply demonstrated with just a few clicks. If you suggest any motivational complexity – that perhaps Amy Cooper said something racist and over-the-top but wasn't lying when she said she felt threatened – then you will be tarred as insufficiently committed to the anti-racist cause.

This logic holds across the board. If President Donald Trump sends out a series of bizarre and morally reprehensible tweets accusing Joe Scarborough of murdering a congressional intern – and if you point out that this is both bizarre and morally reprehensible – then you will be labeled insufficiently loyal to the cause.

It's not about truth; it's not about decency; it's about signaling your *commitment*.

In the real world, commitment without decency is a sin. Online, commitment without decency is a virtue. Which is why if you spend too much time on Twitter, you probably ought to be committed.

Ben Shapiro is editor-in-chief of DailyWire.com.

AP-NORC poll: Half of Americans would get a COVID-19 vaccine

By LAURAN NEERGAARD and HANNAH FINGERHUT
Associated Press

University of Maryland School of Medicine via AP

The first patient enrolled in Pfizer's COVID-19 coronavirus vaccine clinical trial at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore, receives an injection on May 4. Only about half of Americans say they would get a COVID-19 vaccine if the scientists working furiously to create one succeed, according to a poll conducted May 14-18 by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Only about half of Americans say they would get a COVID-19 vaccine if the scientists working furiously to create one succeed, a number that's surprisingly low considering the effort going into the global race for a vaccine.

But more people might eventually roll up their sleeves: The new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found 31 percent simply weren't sure if they'd get vaccinated. Another 1 in 5 said they'd refuse.

Health experts already worry about the whiplash if vaccine promises like President Donald Trump's goal of a 300 million-dose stockpile by January fail. Only time and science will tell – and the new poll shows the public is indeed skeptical.

"It's always better to under-promise and over-deliver," said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious disease specialist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

"The unexpected looms large and that's why I think for any of these vaccines, we're going to need a large safety database to provide the reassurance," he added.

Among Americans who say they wouldn't get vaccinated, 7 in 10 worry about safety.

"I am not an anti-vaxxer," said Melanie Dries, 56, of Colorado Springs, Colorado. But, "to get a COVID-19 vaccine within a year or two ... causes me to fear that it won't be widely tested as to side effects."

Dr. Francis Collins, who directs the National Institutes of Health, insists safety is the top priority. The NIH is creating a master plan for testing the leading COVID-19 vaccine candidates in tens of thousands of people, to prove if they really work and also if they're safe.

"I would not want people to think that we're cutting corners because that would be a big mistake. I think this is an effort to try to achieve efficiencies, but not to sacrifice rigor," Collins told the AP earlier this month.

"Definitely the worst thing that could happen is if we rush through a vaccine that turns out to have significant side effects," Collins added.

Among those who want a vaccine, the AP-NORC poll found protecting themselves, their family and the community are the top reasons.

"I'm definitely going to get it," said Brandon Grimes, 35, of Austin, Texas. "As a father who takes care of his family, I think ... it's important for me to get vaccinated as soon as it's available to better protect my family."

And about 7 in 10 of those who would get vaccinated say life won't go back to normal without a vaccine. A site foreman for his family's construction business, Grimes travels from house to house interacting with different crews, and said some of his coworkers also are looking forward to vaccination to minimize on-the-job risk.

The new coronavirus is most dangerous to older adults and people of any age who have chronic health problems such as diabetes or heart disease. The poll found 67 percent of people 60 and older say they'd get vaccinated, compared with 40 percent who are younger.

Death notices

Patsy L. Adcox, 76, of Buchanan died May 25, 2020, at home. Hoven Funeral Home, Buchanan, 695-2363.

John S. Gleva Sr., 68, of Niles died May 26, 2020, at home. Brown Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Ruby Huling, 95, of St. Joseph died May 26, 2020, at Hanson Hospice Center, Stevensville. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Janice L. Kenyon, 70, of St. Joseph died May 24, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Kathryn Williams, 84, died May 26, 2020, in Dowagiac. Brown Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Ruby Huling

Oct. 10, 1924 – May 26, 2020

Ruby Huling, 95, of St. Joseph passed away Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at Hanson Hospice Center in Stevensville.

A Graveside Service will be held at 2:30 p.m. Friday, May 29, at Rose Hill Cemetery in Berrien Springs, with Pastor Marlo Fritzke officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Caring Circle Hospice or First Baptist Church. Those wishing to share a memory of Ruby online may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Ruby was born Oct. 10, 1924, in Hornersville, Mo., to William and Bertha (Cowan) Hicks. On Oct. 17, 1947, she married Stewart "Lindy" Phillips. They were married 42 years. Then on Aug. 24, 1991, she married Francis Huling in St. Joseph. Ruby worked for A&P Grocery Store as a cashier for many years. In her spare time, she enjoyed traveling and quilting.

Ruby is survived by her stepchildren: James (Leona) Phillips, Sandra (Richard) Hursh, Sharon (Ronnie) Meadows, Kathy (Mark) Hawks and Francis "Jim" (Sally) Huling; 19 stepgrandchildren; 28 stepgreat-grandchildren; and nieces, Glenda "Faye" Barkley and Venita Piner.

She was preceded in death by her parents; first husband, Stewart "Lindy" Phillips; second husband, Francis Huling; stepdaughter, Jacquelin Phillips; stepson, Ronald Phillips; two sisters; one brother; and great-grandson, Aiden Wood.

Patsy Lou Adcox

Jan. 24, 1944 – May 25, 2020

Patsy Lou Adcox, 76, of Buchanan passed away on Monday, May 25, 2020, at her home.

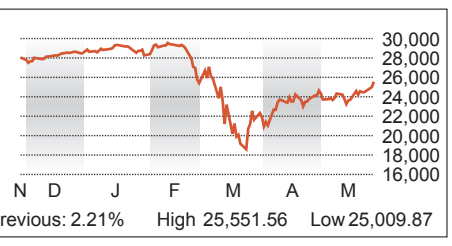
She was born Jan. 24, 1944, to the late Theodore "TJ" and Eunice Adcox in Lepanto, Ark.

Patsy is survived by her sisters, Linda Rohl and Peggy Trumps.

Visitation for Patsy will be held at noon on Monday, June 1, at Hoven Funeral Home, with the funeral service beginning at 1 p.m. Burial will immediately follow in Galien Cemetery. Online condolences may be made at www.hovenfunerals.com.

MARKETS

May 27, 2020
Dow Jones industrials
553.16
25,548.27



Pct. change from previous: 2.21% High 25,551.56 Low 25,009.87

May 27, 2020
Nasdaq composite
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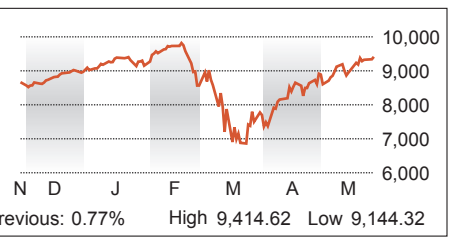
9,412.36



Pct. change from previous: 0.77% High 9,414.62 Low 9,144.32

Amer Elec Power AEP
$81.44 **+2.66 +3.4%**
▼ **4-wk.** -2.0% ▼ **YTD** -13.8%

Whirlpool WHR
$129.19 **+9.49 +7.9%**
▲ **4-wk.** +5.5% ▼ **YTD** -12.4%

LocalStocks

NAME	TICKER	52-WK RANGE LO	HI	◇CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR
AT&T Inc	T	26.08	39.70	31.85	+1.03	+3.3	▲	▲	▲
AEP	AEP	65.14	104.97	81.44	+1.52	+1.9	▲	▼	▲
Apple Inc	AAPL	170.27	327.85	318.11	+1.38	+0.4	▼	▲	▲
AutoZone	AZO	684.91	1274.41	1164.42	+41.22	+3.7	▲	▲	▲
BP PLC	BP	15.51	42.70	23.93	+.67	+2.9	▲	▼	▼
CMS Eng	CMS	46.03	69.12	55.97	+.29	+0.5	▲	▼	▼
CocaCola	KO	36.27	60.07	46.73	+.64	+1.4	▲	▼	▲
Comcast	CMCSA	31.71	47.74	39.93	+.41	+1.0	▲	▲	▲
Deere	DE	106.14	180.48	153.36	+5.33	+3.6	▲	▲	▲
Disney	DIS	79.07	153.41	121.53	+.58	+0.5	▲	▲	▲
DollarTree	DLTR	60.20	119.71	87.53	+2.33	+2.7	▲	▲	▲
ExxonMbl	XOM	30.11	77.93	46.24	+.33	+0.7	▲	▼	▲
FifthThird	FITB	11.10	31.64	20.97	+1.78	+9.3	▲	▲	▲
1stSource	SRCE	26.07	53.42	36.56	+2.56	+7.5	▲	▲	▲
FordM	F	3.96	10.56	6.03	+.19	+3.3	▲	▲	▲
GenElec	GE	5.48	13.26	7.29	+.49	+7.2	▲	▲	▼
HomeDp	HD	140.63	248.32	247.36	+4.88	+2.0	▲	▲	▲
HorizBcp	HBNC	7.42	19.48	11.02	+.49	+4.7	▲	▼	▲
HuntBncsh	HBAN	6.82	15.63	9.52	+.53	+5.9	▲	▼	▲
IDEX	IEX	104.56	178.14	159.21	+4.12	+2.7	▲	▲	▲
IBM	IBM	90.56	158.75	125.54	+3.78	+3.1	▲	▼	▲
JPMorgCh	JPM	76.91	141.10	101.37	+5.55	+5.8	▲	▲	▲
JohnJn	JNJ	109.16	157.00	144.89	+.33	+0.2	▲	▼	▲
Lowes	LOW	60.00	126.73	128.01	+4.42	+3.6	▲	▲	▲
McDnlds	MCD	124.23	221.93	187.72	+2.88	+1.6	▲	▼	▲
Microsoft	MSFT	119.01	190.70	181.81	+.24	+0.1	▼	▲	▲
MillerHer	MLHR	14.39	49.88	25.93	+.76	+3.0	▲	▲	▲
Perrigo	PRGO	40.01	63.86	55.53	+.66	+1.2	▲	▲	▲
Pfizer	PFE	27.88	44.56	37.41	-.08	-0.2	▼	▼	▲
ProctGam	PG	94.34	128.09	113.89	+1.86	+1.7	▲	▼	▲
RepubSvc	RSG	65.37	100.91	83.97	+1.20	+1.4	▲	▲	▲
SteelIcse	SCS	7.02	23.02	12.90	+.07	+0.5	▲	▲	▲
Stryker	SYK	124.54	226.30	191.62	+5.32	+2.9	▲	▼	▲
TCF Finl	TCF	16.96	47.46	31.60	+2.55	+8.8	▲	▲	▲
Target	TGT	79.13	130.24	117.41	+2.29	+2.0	▼	▲	▲
TractSupp	TSCO	63.89	114.25	119.76	+8.55	+7.7	▲	▲	▲
UPS B	UPS	82.00	125.31	99.62	+2.55	+2.6	▲	▲	▲
VerizonCm	VZ	48.84	62.22	55.14	+.84	+1.5	▲	▼	▲
WEC Engy	WEC	68.01	109.53	85.90	+.21	+0.2	▼	▼	▼
WalMart	WMT	100.60	133.38	122.48	-1.38	-1.1	▼	▼	▲
WalgBoots	WBA	36.65	64.50	42.97	+.81	+1.9	▲	▼	▼
Wendys Co	WEN	6.82	24.04	21.78	+1.08	+5.2	▲	▲	▲
Whrlpl	WHR	64.00	163.64	129.19	+3.64	+2.9	▲	▲	▲
Worthgtn	WOR	19.28	44.69	30.68	+1.61	+5.5	▲	▲	▲
XPO Logis	XPO	38.47	100.18	81.33	+.41	+0.5	▲	▲	▲

Larry Kramer, playwright and AIDS activist, dies at 84

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

Jeff Christensen / AP

Larry Kramer, left, and Daryl Roth embracing after they won the Tony Award for Best Revival of a Play for "The Normal Heart" during the 65th annual Tony Awards in New York, on June 12, 2011. Kramer, the playwright whose angry voice and pen raised theatergoers' consciousness about AIDS and roused thousands to militant protests in the early years of the epidemic, died Wednesday, May 27 in Manhattan of pneumonia. He was 84.

NEW YORK — Larry Kramer, the playwright whose angry voice and pen raised theatergoers' consciousness about AIDS and roused thousands to militant protests in the early years of the epidemic, has died at 84.

Bill Goldstein, a writer who was working on a biography of Kramer, confirmed the news to The Associated Press. Kramer's husband, David Webster, told The New York Times that Kramer died Wednesday of pneumonia.

"We have lost a giant of a man who stood up for gay rights like a warrior. His anger was needed at a time when gay men's deaths to AIDS were being ignored by the American government," said Elton John in a statement.

Kramer, who wrote "The Normal Heart" and founded the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, or ACT UP, lost his lover to acquired immune deficiency syndrome in 1984 and was himself infected with the virus. He also suffered from hepatitis B and received a liver transplant in 2001 because the virus had caused liver failure.

He was nominated for an Academy Award for his screenplay for "Women in Love," the 1969 adaptation of D.H. Lawrence's novel. It starred Glenda Jackson, who won her first Oscar for her performance.

He also wrote the 1972 screenplay "Lost Horizon," a novel, "Faggots," and the plays "Sissies' Scrapbook," "The Furniture of Home," "Just Say No" and "The Destiny of Me," which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1993.

But for many years he was best known for his public fight to secure medical treatment, acceptance and civil rights for people with AIDS. He loudly told everyone that the gay community was grappling with a plague.

Tributes from the arts community flooded in Wednesday, with Lin-Manuel Miranda on Twitter saying "What an extraordinary writer, what a life." Dan Savage wrote: "He ordered us to love ourselves and each other and to fight for our lives. He was a hero."

In 1981, when AIDS had not yet acquired its name and only a few dozen people had been diagnosed with it, Kramer and a group of his friends in New York City founded Gay Men's Health Crisis, one of the first groups in the country to address the epidemic.

He tried to rouse the gay community with speeches and articles such as "1,112 and Counting," published in gay newspapers in 1983.

"Our continued existence as gay men upon the face of this earth is at stake," he wrote. "Unless we fight for our lives, we shall die."

The late journalist Randy Shilts, in his best selling account of the AIDS epidemic "And the Band Played On," called that article "inarguably one of the most influential works of advocacy journalism of the decade" and credited it with "crystallizing the epidemic into a political movement for the gay community."

Kramer lived to see gay marriage a reality – and married himself in 2013 – but never rested. "I'm married," he told The AP. "But that's only part of where we are. AIDS is still decimating us and we still don't have protection under the law."

Kramer split with GMHC in 1983 after other board members decided to concentrate on providing support services to people with AIDS. It remains one of the largest AIDS-service groups in the country.

After leaving GMHC, Kramer wrote "The Normal Heart," in which a furious young writer – not unlike Kramer himself – battles politicians, society, the media and other gay leaders to bring attention to the crisis.

The play premiered at The Public Theater in April 1985. Associated Press drama critic Michael Kuchwara called it an "angry but compelling indictment of a society as well as a subculture for failing to respond adequately to the tragedy."

A revival in 2011 was almost universally praised by critics and earned the best revival Tony. Two actors from it – Ellen Barkin and John Benjamin Hickey – also won Tonys. Joe Mantello played the main character of Ned Weeks, the alter ego of Kramer.

"I'm very moved that it moved so many people," he said at the time. Kramer often stood outside the theater passing out fliers asking the world to take action against HIV/AIDS. "Please know that AIDS is a worldwide plague. Please know there is no cure," it said.

The play was turned into a TV film for HBO in 2014 starring Mark Ruffalo, Jonathan Groff, Matt Bomer, Taylor Kitsch, Jim Parsons, Alfred Molina, Joe Mantello and Julia Roberts. It won the Emmy for best movie. Kramer stood onstage in heavy winter clothing as the statuette was presented to director Ryan Murphy.

The 1992 play "The Destiny of Me," continues the story of Weeks from "The Normal Heart." Weeks, in the hospital for an experimental AIDS treatment, reflects on the past, particularly his relationship with his family. His parents and brother appear to act out what happened in the past, as does the young Ned, who confronts his older self.

In 1987, Kramer founded ACT UP, the group that became famous for staging civil disobedience at places like the Food and Drug Administration, the New York Stock Exchange and Burroughs-Wellcome Corp., the maker of the chief anti-AIDS drug, AZT.

ACT UP's protests helped persuade the FDA to speed the approval of new drugs and Burroughs-Wellcome to lower its price for AZT. He also battled – and later reconciled – with Dr. Anthony Fauci, the longtime director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who has been leading the national response to the coronavirus pandemic.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

25 years ago – 1995

Coast Guard patrols will be out in full force in Southwest Michigan's two biggest ports – St. Joseph and South Haven – this Memorial Day weekend. They will be spot checking boaters for intoxicated drivers and compliance with the new federal law which went into effect on May 1 requiring boaters to have a life jacket readily accessible for each person on board on any size vessel.

35 years ago – 1985

The City of Buchanan presented two awards of excellence for achievements in renovation to Jack-Post Corp. for its newly-renovated office building and plant. The two buildings are the former Clark Equipment Co. facilities in Buchanan, which the city sold for $1 to Jack-Post Co. in 1981 in exchange for a promise of renovation and employment of local workers.

50 years ago – 1970

An era is ending in Dowagiac. Next week the last Catholic sister will leave Lee Memorial Hospital, which was founded by the Sisters of Mercy 52 years ago.

Sister Corinne Feldpausch of the Sisters of St. Joseph will leave her duties as controller of the hospital on June 3. Sister Corinne arrived at Lee Memorial Hospital four years ago. She will now go to the St. Joseph Scudiere Opportunity Center in Detroit to work on a project called "Stepping Stones," which is aimed at helping the poor becoming home owners.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Thursday, May 28, the 149th day of 2020. There are 217 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On May 28, 1912, the Senate Commerce Committee issued its report on the Titanic disaster that cited a "state of absolute unpreparedness," improperly tested safety equipment and an "indifference to danger" as some of the causes of an "unnecessary tragedy."

On this date:

In 1533, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, declared the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Anne Boleyn valid.

In 1863, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, made up of freed blacks, left Boston to fight for the Union in the Civil War.

In 1908, British author Ian Fleming, the creator of James Bond as well as "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," was born in London.

In 1918, American troops fought their first major battle during World War I as they launched an offensive against the German-held French village of Cantigny; the Americans succeeded in capturing the village.

In 1957, National League owners gave permission for the Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Giants to move to Los Angeles and San Francisco.

In 1959, the U.S. Army launched Able, a rhesus monkey, and Baker, a squirrel monkey, aboard a Jupiter missile for a suborbital flight which both primates survived.

In 1977, 165 people were killed when fire raced through the Beverly Hills Supper Club in Southgate, Kentucky.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Scattered T-storms	Few Showers	Few Showers	Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Partly Cloudy
75°	57°	62° / 54°	60° / 52°	61° / 54°	67° / 61°

Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a 55% chance of showers and thunderstorms, high temperature of 75°, humidity of 68%. South wind 5 to 8 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with a 65% chance of showers, overnight low of 57°. West wind 7 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise ..... 6:14 a.m.
Sunset ..... 9:12 p.m.
Moonrise ..... 11:36 a.m.
Moonset ..... 1:44 a.m.

First 5/29 · Full 6/5 · Last 6/13 · New 6/21

Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature

High	82°
Low	68°
Normal High	74°
Normal Low	52°
Record High	97° in 2012
Record Low	42° in 2008

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	6.09"
Normal for month	3.39"
Year to date	18.33"
Normal Year to date	12.57"

Air Quality

Yesterday 53
Main Offender ..... Particles

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

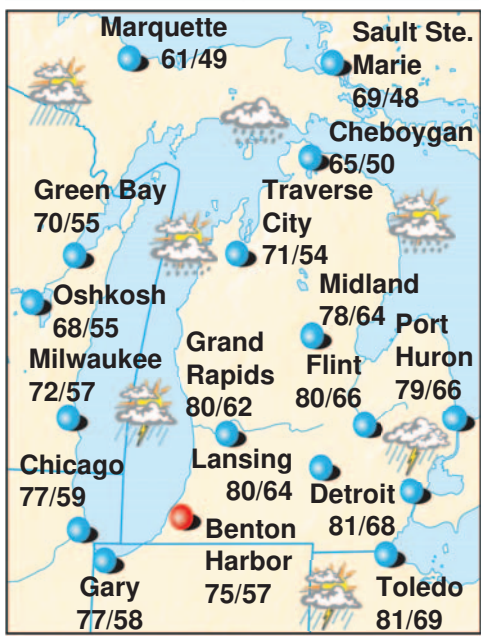
0-50 ..... Good
51-100 ..... Moderate
101-150 .... Sensitive
151-200 .. Unhealthy

Weather Trivia

What meteorological instrument is used to measure wind speed?

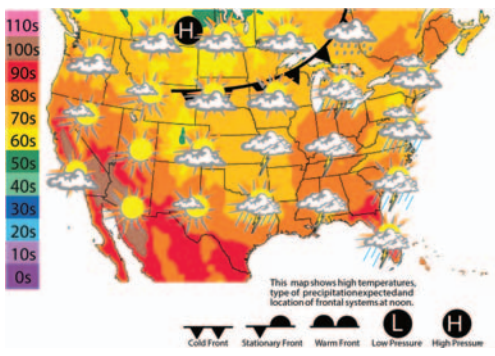
Answer: In 1450, the anemometer was invented to measure wind speed.

Regional Map



National Weather Map

Forecast map for May 28, 2020



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, S wind around 7 kt. Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Patchy fog. Waves around 1 ft. Water temperature 68 degrees. Tonight, SW wind around 8 kt.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with widespread rain and showers, highs in the 60s and 70s. East wind 6 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Friday with widespread showers, highs in the 50s and 60s. West wind 5 to 14 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with widespread thunderstorms, highs in the 70s and 80s. South wind 5 to 8 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Friday with scattered showers and thunderstorms, highs in the 60s and 70s.

Whitmer orders probe of failed dams that caused flooding

By COREY WILLIAMS
Associated Press

Katy Kildee / Midland Daily News via AP

Hunter Klich, 14, maneuvers a kayak down the middle of Walden Woods Drive on May 20 in Midland as residents coped with flooding.

WEST BLOOMFIELD — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Wednesday demanded an investigation to determine what caused two dams in central Michigan to fail, leading to devastating floods in several communities and forcing about 11,000 people to evacuate their homes.

Whitmer ordered the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy to look into the May 19 failures of the Edenville and Sanford dams, operated by Boyce Hydro.

"I'm committed to doing everything I can to hold those responsible for the dams' safety accountable," she told reporters in Midland, one of the communities that was submerged. "I also asked EGLE to review the issue of dam safety in Michigan and provide recommendations on policy, legislative and enforcement reforms that can prevent these harms from being repeated elsewhere."

Boyce Hydro has not responded to an email seeking comment.

Heavy rain preceded the dam troubles along the Tittabawassee River and connected lakes in Midland County. The National Weather Service had urged all who lived near the river to seek higher ground. Scores of homes and businesses were destroyed or damaged by the rising river water.

"Experts are saying that this is a 500-year event," Whitmer said Wednesday. "It's going to have a major impact on Midland County and beyond for the time to come."

Some residents have filed civil lawsuits against Boyce Hydro seeking damages. EGLE and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources also have been named as a defendants in a civil suit.

Boyce Hydro's license for the nearly century-old Edenville Dam at Wixom Lake was revoked in 2018 by federal regulations over safety violations. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission said it repeatedly raised concerns about the dam's ability to prevent flooding during extreme conditions because of its inadequate spillway capacity.

The company twice lowered Wixom Lake's level without permission after the federal license was revoked, according to EGLE, which has overseen the Edenville barrier since the federal license was withdrawn.

A lawsuit filed April 30 says the lengthy drawdowns in 2018 and 2019 killed "thousands, if not millions" of freshwater mussels, many listed as endangered species.

Boyce Hydro said in a statement last week that the sale of electricity generated by the dams was not enough to make probable maximum flood improvements required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The company also said had it been allowed to maintain the Edenville Dam at run of river levels "the dam would have been able to handle and safely pass the volume of water generated by this storm."

"There are a lot of problems that come with the owner of this particular dam," Whitmer said. "There is a lot of information out there that is not exactly accurate, one of which is the assumption that it was the state that said to raise the levels."

"Now, of course they have all sorts of ecological concerns, but it also was because of a court order is my understanding," she continued. "That's precisely why it's important that we get the facts, we share the results of the investigation so that people can understand all of the different actions or non-actions that contributed to the failing of these two dams."

Last week, Michigan Republican Party Chair Laura Cox said in a release that Attorney General Dana Nessel should recuse her office from investigating the Edenville Dam failure and transfer her inquiry to federal authorities.

When asked if a third party should be brought in to investigate, Whitmer said she was following procedure in having EGLE conduct the probe.

"We have to go to the agency that has the expertise," she said. "There are very few that have the kind of expertise that is really needed to be able to properly do this investigation."

DEATH TOLL

From page A1

infected more than 5.6 million people and killed over 350,000, with the U.S. having the most confirmed cases and deaths by far, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Europe has recorded about 170,000 deaths, while the U.S. reached more than 100,000 in less than four months.

The true death toll from the virus, which emerged in China late last year and was first reported in the U.S. in January, is widely believed to be significantly higher, with experts saying many victims died of COVID-19 without ever being tested for it.

Early on, President Donald Trump downplayed the severity of the coronavirus, likening it to the flu, and predicted the U.S. wouldn't reach 100,000 deaths.

"I think we'll be substantially under that number," Trump said on April 10. Ten days later, he said, "We're going toward 50- or 60,000 people." Ten days after that: "We're probably heading to 60,000, 70,000."

Critics have said deaths spiked because Trump was slow to respond, but he has contended on Twitter that it could have been 20 times higher without his actions. He has urged states to reopen their economies after months of stay-at-home restrictions.

Las Vegas casinos can welcome tourists again on June 4. SeaWorld and Walt Disney World plan to reopen to limited numbers of tourists in Orlando, Florida, in June and July. And people who have been cooped up indoors began venturing outside in droves, often without practicing social distancing or wearing masks.

Kelly Hove, 79, of Twin Falls, Idaho, an internationally known pianist, died at a nursing home on April 12 of complications from COVID-19 after a long battle with dementia. Her sister-in-law Jan Hove fears that more will die as states start lifting restrictions.

"I think going back too soon is going to cause more deaths, so I'm incredibly concerned," she said. "And I don't think we have adequate leadership. ... It's an absolute joke, from the White House down."

The virus exacted an especially vicious toll on Trump's hometown of New York City and its surrounding suburbs, killing more than 21,000. At the peak, hundreds of people were dying per day in New York City, and hospitals, ambulances and first responders were inundated with patients.

There is no vaccine or treatment for COVID-19, though several emergency treatments are being used after showing some promise in preliminary testing.

Worldwide, about a dozen vaccine candidates are starting to be tested or getting close to it. Health officials have said studies of a potential vaccine might be done by late this year or early next year.

Only half of Americans said they would be willing to get vaccinated if scientists are successful in developing a vaccine, according to a poll released Wednesday from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

For most, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

Among the 100,000 fatalities was 74-year-old Michael Ganci of Newington, Connecticut, who died March 21. He was a public school teacher, a grandfather and father of four, and a 4th-degree belt Sensei in Kyokushin karate.

Ganci, who had a compromised immune system, died at a hospital in Hartford three days after showing symptoms. His family was not allowed to be with him and tried to text and talk with him on his cellphone during his final days. His wife of 48 years also tested positive for COVID-19 and had to grieve alone.

For their daughter, 45-year-old Joanna Ganci of Beverly, Massachusetts, the milestone is important to understand the scope of the virus.

"But at the same time, I think the danger of counting, the danger of statistics, is that it just minimizes the human element," she said. "It's like, what number is going to make an impact for people who haven't been touched by it?"

It's not even clear when the coronavirus turned deadly in the United States. Initially, it was believed the first U.S. deaths from the virus were in late February in a Seattle suburb. But by mid-April, it was determined that two people with the coronavirus died in California as many as three weeks earlier.

SIREN

From page A1

B-WARN! through the Emergency Management Division pages within the Berrien County Sheriff's Office website.

Siren and other basic emergency information can also be found in the yearly calendars that are produced by the Cook Nuclear Plant and mailed to residents and businesses in Berrien County. A PDF of the calendar, along with answers to Frequently Asked Questions, can be found at www.cookinfo.com/EmergencyPlan.asps.

Contact: jswidwa@TheHP.com, 932-0359, Twitter @HPSwidwa

MI RESOLVE

From page A1

to our community through appropriate ways of solving conflict," Miner said.

Through the program, people can negotiate directly with each other or have a mediator from Citizens Mediation Services help them resolve a dispute.

If the dispute is resolved, the system produces the necessary court forms for filing in the individual courts, according to a news release from Citizens Mediation Services.

Miner said the program is especially useful as residents continue to shelter-in-place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To use the program, people have to live, work or have a dispute arising in one of the participating counties. Statewide, there are 44 counties that now use MI Resolve.

People must also be at least 18 years, have an active email address and access to the internet.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

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